



SUGGESTED FOR  
MATURE READERS

1  
DEC

BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI



"BE CAREFUL  
OF WHAT  
YOU WISH  
FOR, KIDDO."

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MILESTONE

# DEATHWISH

IT'S A LOVE STORY



DIRECT SALES



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7 61941 20392 8

NORTH STREET  
SEAPORT DISTRICT.

3:45 AM

FIVE YEARS AGO I  
THOUGHT I WAS NUTS.

WORKIN' ALL MY OFF-DUTY  
TIME ON A CASE NOBODY  
GAVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT.

LIEUTENANT LEON  
MARTIN RAHM.

SOME FREAK WAS  
OFFIN' THE QUEENS  
WHO WORKED THE PIER.

NASTY BUSINESS... AND I  
WAS HANDLIN' IT ALONE.

ONE OF DAKOTA'S FINEST.

EVERYBODY HAD  
NAMES FOR  
'EM... SOME  
CLINICAL... SOME  
DISGUSTING... I  
JUST CALLED 'EM  
THE GIRLS--

I WANTED TO  
MOTHER THEM.

THAT WAS THE NIGHT  
I MET DINI--

--HER AND HER  
FRIEND HAD  
JUST MET UP  
WITH SICKO.

DINI GOT  
SLASHED OVER  
HER LEFT EYE.  
HER FRIEND  
JACKIE WASN'T  
AS LUCKY.



FIRST TIME I'D COME  
ACROSS ONE OF THE  
GIRLS STILL ALIVE--

--BUT THEN, DINI WAS  
PRETTY SCRAPPY. SHE'D  
ACTUALLY MANAGED  
TO STAB THE PERP  
WITH HIS OWN KNIFE.



--NUTBOY RAN  
WHEN HE SAW  
MY FLASHLIGHT.



SHE CALLED  
HIM BOOTS.

I WAS SO CLOSE, I COULD  
ACTUALLY FEEL THE  
BLOOD IN MY EYES AS I  
WATCHED HIM ESCAPE.



I COULD  
SEE WHY.

IT WAS A FOUR-YEAR  
WAIT 'TIL I CAUGHT  
UP WITH HIM AGAIN.



BUT I'M GETTING  
AHEAD OF MYSELF.



IT WAS A NIGHT OF  
FIRST ENCOUNTERS.

I'D MET AN ANGEL--

--A DEVIL--

--AND SUDDENLY I WAS  
FACE TO FACE WITH  
DEATH'S DARK MIRROR

FREEZE  
TWISTO.

EVERY COP  
KNEW THIS  
GUY'S TAG.

DEATHWISH.

TOLD HIM I WAS  
A COP. STARTED  
TO REACH FOR  
MY BADGE.

LIKE TWENTY BUCKS  
OF POT METAL IN A  
LEATHER CASE WOULD  
MATTER TO THIS GUY.



HE WAS  
READING  
ME.



YOU'RE A  
COP ALRIGHT,  
KIDDO--

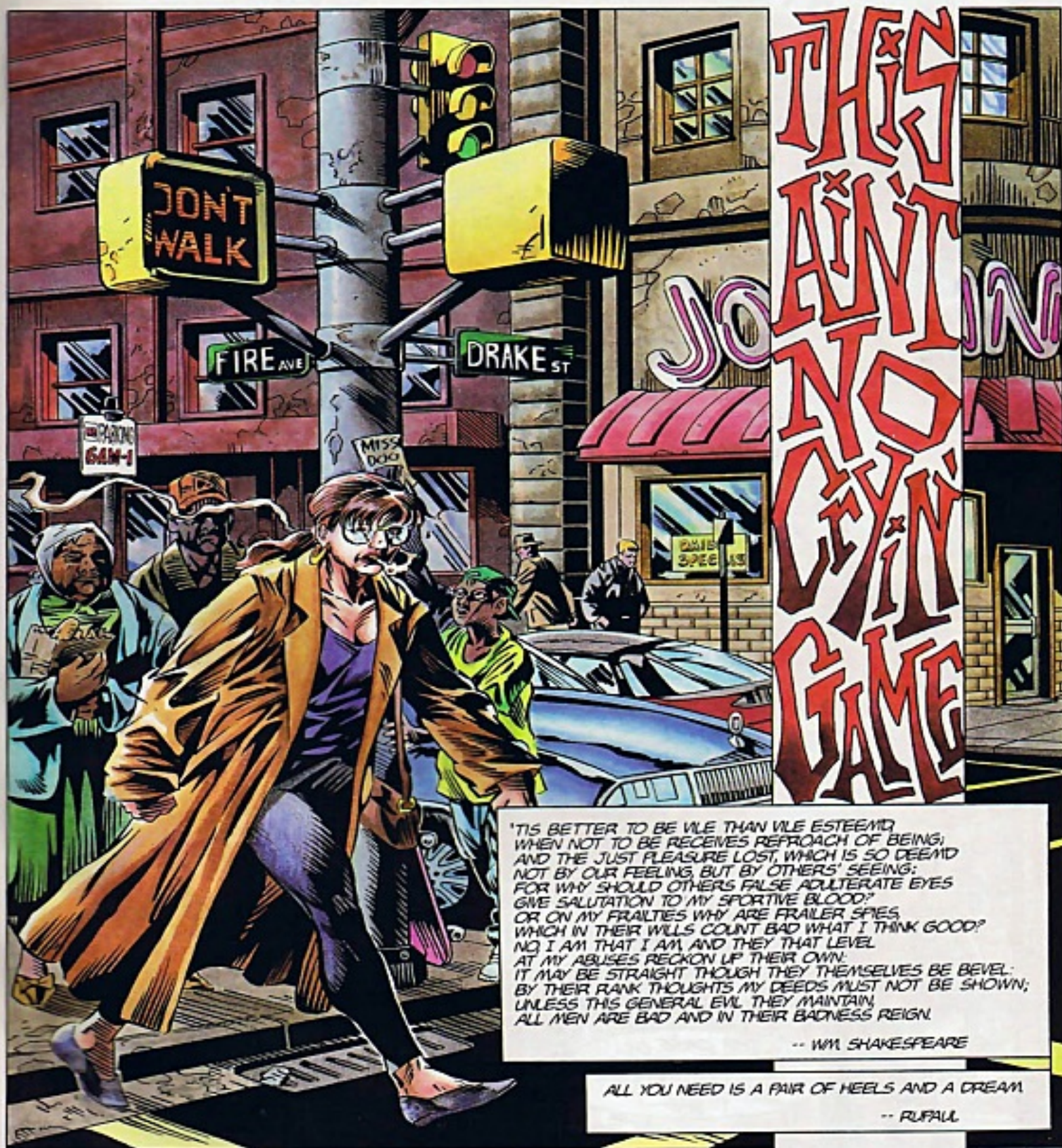
--AND  
MAYBE YOU  
HAVEN'T FACED  
IT YET--



"BUT YOU'RE ALSO  
ONE OF THE GIRLS"



SEE YOU  
IN HELL



'TIS BETTER TO BE VILE THAN VILE ESTEEM'D  
WHEN NOT TO BE RECEIVES REPROACH OF BEING;  
AND THE JUST PLEASURE LOST, WHICH IS SO DEEM'D  
NOT BY OUR FEELING, BUT BY OTHERS' SEEING;  
FOR WHY SHOULD OTHERS FALSE ADULTERATE EYES  
GIVE SALUTATION TO MY SPORTIVE BLOOD?  
OR ON MY FRAILTIES WHY ARE FRAILER SPIES,  
WHICH IN THEIR WILLS COUNT BAD WHAT I THINK GOOD?  
NO, I AM THAT I AM, AND THEY THAT LEVEL  
AT MY ABUSES RECKON UP THEIR OWN:  
IT MAY BE STRAIGHT THOUGH THEY THEMSELVES BE BEVEL;  
BY THEIR RANK THOUGHTS MY DEEDS MUST NOT BE SHOWN;  
UNLESS THIS GENERAL EVIL THEY MAINTAIN,  
ALL MEN ARE BAD AND IN THEIR BADNESS REIGN.

-- WM. SHAKESPEARE

ALL YOU NEED IS A PAIR OF HEELS AND A DREAM

-- RUFUS

# DAKOTA 2nd PRECINCT

OKAY... IT'S FOUR YEARS  
OF THERAPY LATER.

THE FORCE RECOGNIZES ME  
OFFICIALLY AS LT. MARISA RAHM,  
THE FIRST PRE-OPERATIVE  
TRANSEXUAL POLICE LIEUTENANT  
THE CITY HAS EVER EMPLOYED.

MY FELLOW OFFICERS  
TREAT ME WITH THINLY  
VEILED CONTEMPT.

SKIPPER SAYS IT TOOK  
ME STONES TO STAY  
ON THE FORCE.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY  
I'M KEEPIN' THEM.

DON'T EVEN  
THINK ABOUT  
TAKING ME OFF  
THE CASE!

HANG ON A  
SEC. I THINK MY  
DAY JUST GOT  
WORSE--

RAHM!  
I PREFER MY MEN  
TO YELL AT ME  
BEHIND CLOSED  
DOORS.

PEOPLE, SKIPPER--  
CAN YOU LEARN TO  
SAY PEOPLE!

THE DOOR,  
MARISA--

THE CASE, GIL!  
I'VE BEEN ON THE  
SEAPORT MURDER  
CASE FOR FOUR  
YEARS--

CLOSER  
TO FIVE.

AND MOST OF THAT  
TIME HAS BEEN SPENT  
TRYIN' TO KEEP MY  
BADGE--

I'M NOT  
EXACTLY MS.  
POPULARITY, YA  
KNOW.

SKIPPER WAS REALLY A SWEETIE. ALWAYS HAD TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO RE-ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY...DO HIS DADDY THING.



EVEN MARTIN KNEW THIS DANCE.

C'MON, GIL, I'M REAL CLOSE.

THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME, MADDIE.



IAD THINKS YOU'RE DATING ONE OF OUR MATERIAL WITNESSES.



HATED TO KEEP STUFF FROM SKIP. ACTUALLY I WAS LIVING WITH DINI.



LOVERS--YA KNOW?

BY THE BOOK, MADDIE, YOU UNDERSTAND ME?



HEY, SKIP--



I LIVE MY LIFE BY THE BOOK.





SAY HELLO TO  
BOGEY-MAN.

LAST TIME I SAW  
HIM HE WAS  
WEARING A MASK



HE SHOULD'VE KEPT IT--  
LOOKED LESS CRAZY.

HIS NAME WAS WILT.  
BUT IF YOU CALLED  
HIM THAT HED GO OFF



HE BECAME  
DEATHWISH A  
VIGILANTE WHO  
SPECIALIZED  
IN PLAYING  
EXECUTIONER  
TO SEXUAL  
DEVIANTS.

HE KNEW  
HIS PREY.

I FIGURED I COULD PUMP  
HIM FOR SOME INFO MAYBE  
HE WANTED BOOTS ON A  
FLATTER AS MUCH AS ME.

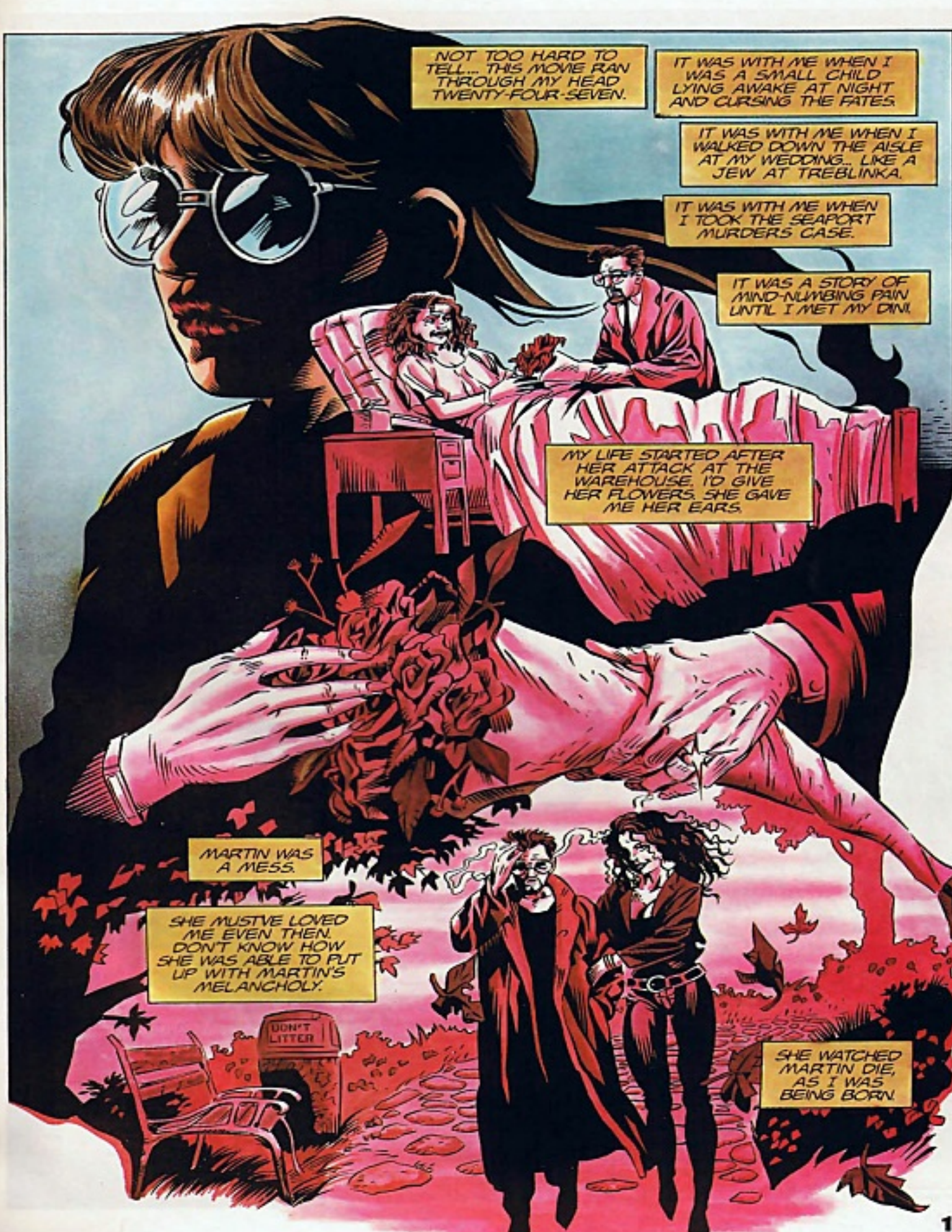


WE WENT THROUGH TWO  
PACKS OF SMOKES BEFORE HE  
NAMED HIS PRICE.

HE  
REMEMBERED  
MARTIN.



HE WANTED  
TO KNOW  
MY STORY.



NOT TOO HARD TO  
TELL... THIS MOVIE RAN  
THROUGH MY HEAD  
TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I  
WAS A SMALL CHILD  
LYING AWAKE AT NIGHT  
AND CURSING THE FATES.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I  
WALKED DOWN THE AISLE  
AT MY WEDDING... LIKE A  
JEW AT TREBLINKA.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN  
I TOOK THE SEAPORT  
MURDERS CASE.

IT WAS A STORY OF  
MIND-NUMBING PAIN  
UNTIL I MET MY DINI.

MY LIFE STARTED AFTER  
HER ATTACK AT THE  
WAREHOUSE. I'D GIVE  
HER FLOWERS. SHE GAVE  
ME HER EARS.

MARTIN WAS  
A MESS.

SHE MUST'VE LOVED  
ME EVEN THEN.  
DON'T KNOW HOW  
SHE WAS ABLE TO PUT  
UP WITH MARTIN'S  
MELANCHOLY.

SHE WATCHED  
MARTIN DIE,  
AS I WAS  
BEING BORN.

OH YEAH... I WAS  
BORN IN HELL.

MARTIN HAD  
LEFT ME WITH  
A LOT OF CRAP  
TO CLEAN UP.

SHARON, MY EX,  
WASNT TOO HAPPY  
ABOUT LOSING A  
PERFECTLY GOOD  
WHIPPING-BOY.  
STILL... THE DIVORCE  
WENT MUCH  
SMOOTHER THAN  
THE MARRIAGE.

DINI WAS  
MY GUARDIAN  
ANGEL.

SHE HELPED ME  
TO FIND MY OWN  
BEAUTY.

NOT JUST MY  
BODY... MY MIND  
AND SOUL TOO.

IT DIDNT EVEN  
OCCUR TO ME  
TO READ  
BAUDELAIRE  
BEFORE.

DINI WAS  
BRILLIANT AND  
BEAUTIFUL...

...AND IN PAIN.

THE SCAR THAT  
BOOTS GAVE  
HER WAS ONLY  
A TWO-INCH  
GASH ON HER  
FOREHEAD.

SHE SAID IT MADE HER  
FEEL LIKE JOHN MER-  
RICK... THE ELEPHANT  
MAN, YA KNOW?

MARTIN HAD  
ALWAYS LIVED TO  
SEE HIMSELF DIE.

I WAS  
DIFFERENT.  
I LIVED TO  
SEE BOOTS  
DIE.

I DIDNT TELL  
DEATHWISH  
THAT PART.

I DIDNT  
HAVE TO.



EXIT 14 ON THE  
909 FREEWAY.

THE LEGENDARY  
HOUSE OF BOOTS

A LOT OF THE QUEENS IN TOWN  
BELONG TO HOUSES. THEY HOLD  
BALLS, WEAR EXPENSIVE CLOTHES,  
AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS A  
SURROGATE FAMILY.



THE GIRLS THAT RUN  
THE HOUSES ARE  
CALLED MOTHERS.

BOOTS WAS  
A MUTHUH.

TIME WAS WHEN HE  
WAS SATISFIED WITH  
JUST KILLING THE  
SHE-MALES THAT  
WALKED THE PIER.

GUESS HE  
STARTED TO  
FIND SERIAL  
MURDER TO  
BE TOO  
PEDESTRIAN.



BOOTS WAS  
AN ARTIST.

HE HAD A MESSAGE  
TO DELIVER.

DERIVATIVE.



IF YOU WERE ONE OF HIS  
KIDS, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO  
SCREW UP, YA KNOW?



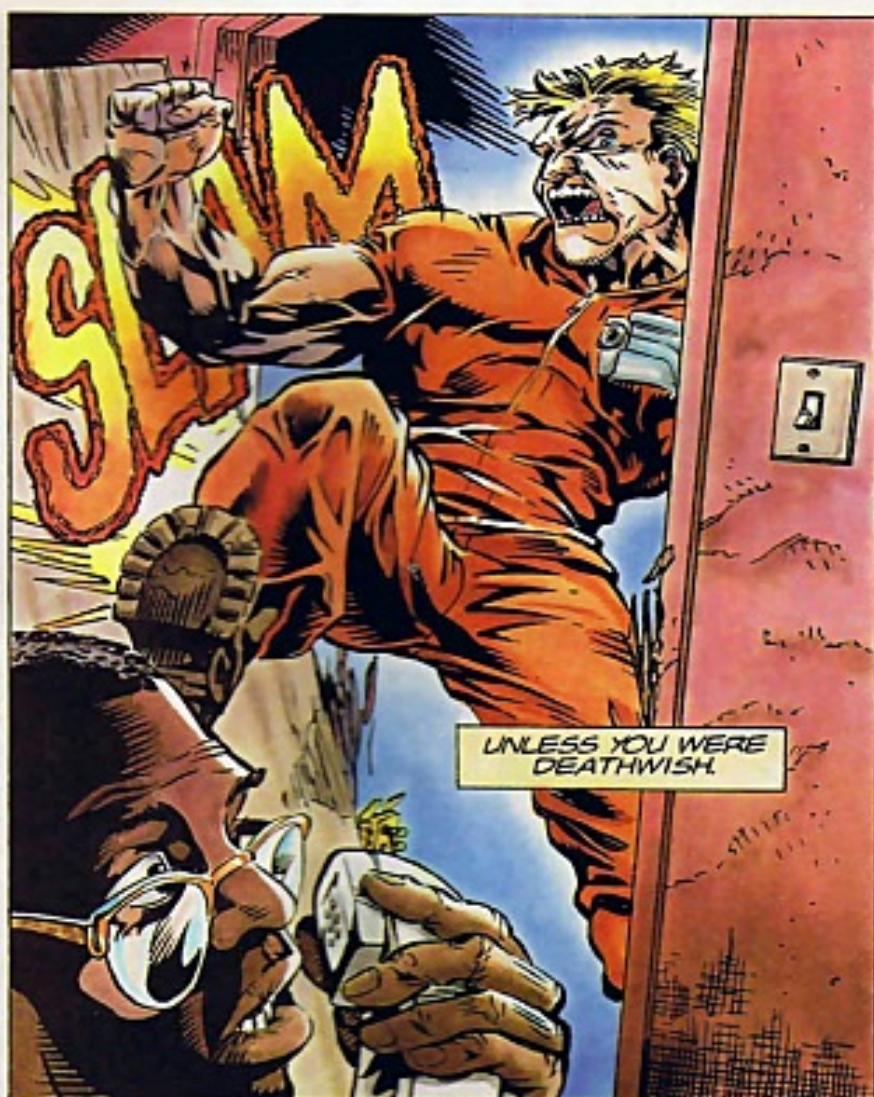
THE SEPULCHRAL  
SCULPTURES OF THE  
HOUSE OF BOOTS  
WERE SUPPOSED TO  
BE "THE BOMB."

THE GUY WAS ON  
A MISSION.









I WAS HAVIN' A  
QUIET DINNER WITH  
MY BABY. TIMES LIKE  
THAT WERE GETTING  
FEWER AND  
FARTHER BETWEEN.  
THE CASE WAS  
ALWAYS THERE. HELL,  
I WAS BORN ON THE  
CASE-- WONDERIN'  
IF I'D DIE WHEN IT  
WAS ALL OVER--

367 OGDEN AVENUE,  
SACHEM CITY.

HOME.

HEY,  
MORT!  
WHAT'S  
WITH THE  
PUSS?

"MORT" --SHE LIKED TO CALL ME  
THAT WHEN I WAS GEEKING.

OH --NOTHING,  
DINI. DINNER'S  
WONDERFUL--  
I JUST--

I DUNNO--

WHATEVER,  
HORT.

"HORT" --I MUST'VE BEEN  
GEEKIN' UP A STORM.

WATCHIT,  
BITCH!

WHO'RE  
YOU CALLIN'  
BITCH, YA  
MESS!

NOW EAT  
YOUR EGG  
FOO YOUNG,  
BEFORE I  
SLAP YOU  
AROUND.

ASSAULTING  
AN OFFICER?

I COULD  
LOCK YOU  
UP FOR  
THAT.

DO  
YOUR WORST,  
COPPER.

MY  
WORST--

--SEEMED LIKE I WAS  
ALWAYS LEAVING DINI  
WITH A MESS  
TO CLEAN UP.

GEEK.

THEY  
FLASHED  
ME A 911,  
SWEETS. I  
GOTTA  
GO.

BOOTS?

BOOTS.  
CALL LINDA--  
I'D LIKE HER TO  
STAY WITH YOU  
TONIGHT.

DON'T WAIT UP,  
QUERIDA MIA--  
TE AMO.

I KNOW.

SKIPPER ONLY  
BEEPED ME  
WHEN THE  
KREPLACH  
HIT THE  
FAN.

THE HOUSE  
OF BOOTS  
WAS BACK  
IN ACTION.  
THE TWO  
UNIFORMS  
WHO PICKED  
ME UP GAVE  
ME THE  
DOPE ON  
THE LATEST  
KILLING.

A REAL  
BLOODBATH.

BAD  
ENOUGH  
NEWS ALL  
BY ITSELF,  
BUT THERE  
WAS MORE.

DEATHWISH  
WAS OUT.

HE ESCAPED  
BROOKHAVEN  
WITHOUT  
FIRING A  
SHOT. ALL  
THE PRISON  
GUARDS  
WERE STILL  
ALIVE.

IT TOOK FOUR  
OFFICERS TO PRY  
THE GUN LOOSE  
FROM HARRY "THE  
HAMMER'S" GRIP.

THEY FOUND HIM UNDER  
HIS DESK BABBLING LIKE A  
LUNATIC ABOUT EVIL SPIRITS.

NO LEADS AS TO  
DEATHWISH'S WHERE-  
ABOUTS... OR WHY HE  
DECIDED TO ESCAPE  
AFTER A YEAR OF BEING  
A MODEL PRISONER.

I KNEW WHY.

GODDESS  
FORGIVE ME

DEATHWISH  
WAS ON  
THE CASE.



BODY MAKE-UP, THEATRICAL LIGHTING-- HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO SET UP THIS TWISTED LITTLE TABLEAU?



LONG ENOUGH.



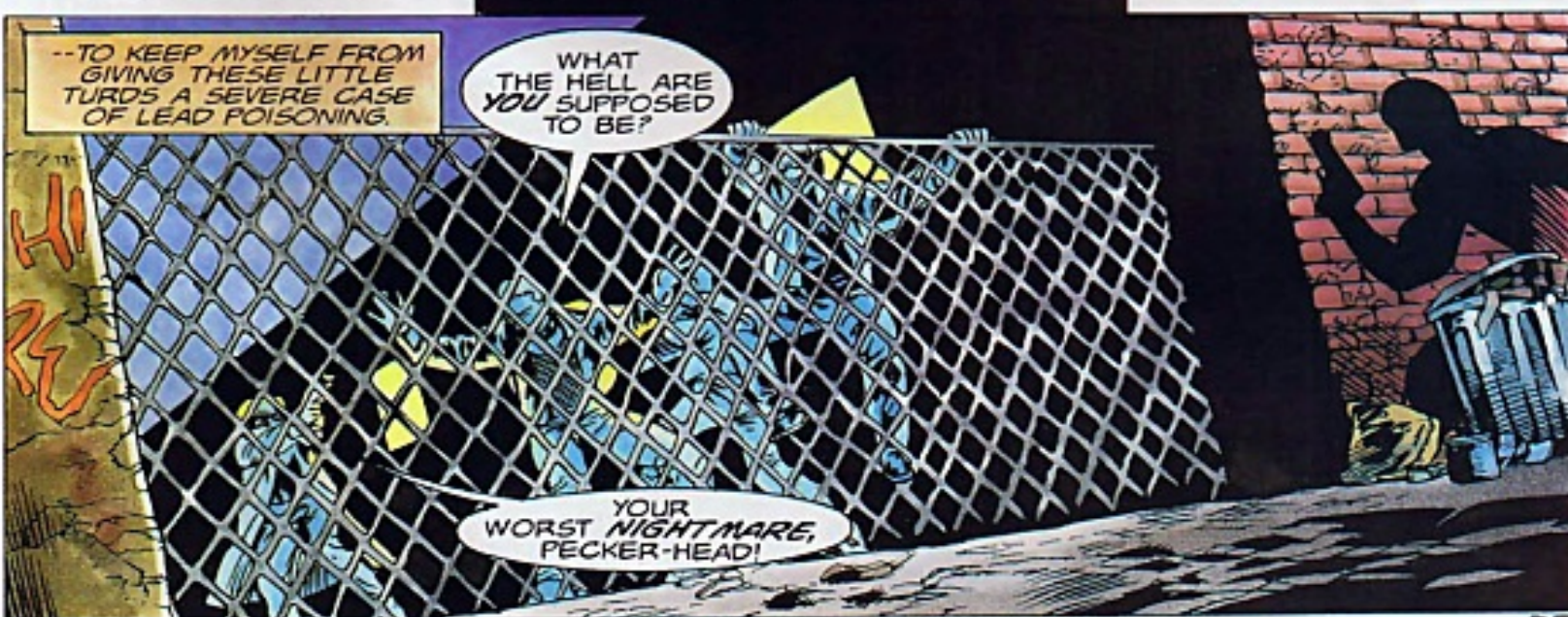
NO BOOTS... BUT I'D SETTLE FOR HIS MONKEYS.



--TO KEEP MYSELF FROM GIVING THESE LITTLE TURDS A SEVERE CASE OF LEAD POISONING.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE, PECKER-HEAD!



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO REMAIN SILENT!



ANYTHING YOU  
SAY CAN, AND WILL,  
BE USED AGAINST  
YOU IN A COURT  
OF LAW!



KRAV



YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT TO AN  
ATTORNEY, AND TO  
HAVE THAT ATTORNEY  
PRESENT AT YOUR  
QUESTIONING!

IF YOU  
CANNOT AFFORD  
AN ATTORNEY,  
THE COURT WILL  
PROVIDE YOU  
WITH ONE.



DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
THESE RIGHTS  
AS I HAVE  
EXPLAINED  
THEM TO  
YOU?

JESUS,  
RAH! YOU  
TRYIN' TO KILL  
THESE GUYS?



WISH I  
COULD.



OOOOOH,  
MARISA---



ADAM BLAUSTEIN writer • YVES FEZZANI plot assist • J. H. WILLIAMS III penciller  
JIMMY PALMIOTTI inker • J. BROWN painted color • JOSEPH DANIELLO letterer • DWAYNE McDUFFIE editor



## THE FIRST HUNDRED ARE THE TOUGHEST

This month we celebrate that most solemn of holiday events — Milestone's 100th ON-TIME ISSUE, **ICON #20!!!** This special issue has NO enhancements, other than a great story by Dwayne, and M.D. Bright giving up some pages for ChrisCross and John Paul Leon to pencil! Oh, and some guest appearances by Hardware, Static, Wise Son and some prominent citizens of Dakota! You don't NEED anything more.

Upon reflection, we can only say we made it this far on the backs of some of the best talent in the industry, from the regular crew — Denys, Dwayne, M. D. Bright, ChrisCross, Ivan Velez, Jr., John Paul Leon, Robert L. Washington III, J.J. Birch, Wilfred, John Rozum and Humberto Ramos, to name but a few — to those who lent their talents intermittently — Romeo Tanghal, Bill Sienkiewicz, Mike Manley, Jimmy Palmiotti, Bob Smith, Walter Simonson and John Byrne, to name but another few.

Let us not forget the backstage crew, the guys and gals whose sweat ran only AFTER the pencils, inkers, letterers and color painters were through, namely the production and support staff. And of course, you, the reader, must share the blame, too. You know who you are.

## FAMILIAR NEW FACES

As long as we're looking back, let us return to September of 1992 when a bright, wide-eyed Christine Gilliam joined a budding Milestone as Office Manager. Recently, Christine, who brought more than her sardonic wit and organizational prowess to the job, was promoted to Manager of Corporate Communications. In addition to the smooth management of the front office, Christine is now responsible for

convention and special event planning, and press liaising. She is the epitome of finesse, whether getting the word on Milestone out to the public, or serving as gendarme to her lovely 10-year-old daughter, Chanté.

Milestone also welcomes the second promotion of Joseph Illidge from Administrative Assistant to Assistant to the President. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts and Milestone's internship program, Joe has been with Milestone since May of 1993. By October, he was a full-time staff member. Joe heard about Milestone's internship program from pal Jason Scott Jones, whom he met while hanging out at the Outerlimits, a now-defunct comic book shop in Brooklyn. "It was of great significance to my career that I was able to get in at ground level in the first Black-owned comic book company that has made the kind of impact that Milestone has," he says. Hard-working and ambitious, Joe, that rare amalgam of creativity and business sense, has already sold two **SHADOW CABINET** scripts to Milestone.



A step in the right direction... up!  
**CHRISTINE GILLIAM** and  
**JOSEPH P. ILLIDGE**

Next month, we'll show off some of the newest additions to our ever-expanding Staff Universe!

## SPEND YOUR DAKOTA NIGHTS ONLINE!

Since **AMERICA ONLINE** started **MILESTONE ONLINE** as part of **DC ONLINE**, there's been a

whirlwind of **ACTIVITY ONLINE!** In fact, there's a Milestone chat group, every Wednesday at 7pm EDT! It's called **DAKOTA NIGHTS**, and Milestone's own affable editor, **JACQUELINE CHING**, and affable colorist, **J. SCOTT J.**, moderate it. If you have a computer with a modem, you can call **AMERICA ONLINE** at (800) 203-2600 and get a free **DC ONLINE** starter kit. Be sure to tell them that you want it because you want **MILESTONE!**

## DEATHWISH THE FIRST

The first-ever Milestone **MINISERIES**, is what we mean! Writer **ADAM BLAUSTEIN** has made the streets of Dakota noticeably harder in a four-issue mini that starts this month. This will likely be the miniseries that has everybody talking this season. Penciller **J.H. WILLIAMS III** shines, firmly establishing himself as one of



## DEATHWISH #1

the brightest new talents around, while inker **JIMMY PALMIOTTI** and color painter **J. BROWN** each deliver some of the best work of their stellar careers.

The excitement that the talent involved feels for this project shows up on every page. In the Milestone tradition, this one will foil your expectations. For instance, you've probably figured out that it's a love story, right?



Look for these **NEW LOGOS**, starting this month! They're for **STATIC** and **SHADOW CABINET**, but then, you probably know that.



## KOBALT #7

**Lacquerment; Ships November 8th** WHAT ARE LITTLE BOYS MADE OF?, part THREE! **PRINCESS NIGHTMARE**, Empress of Ten Thousand Screaming Worlds of Terror, arrives in Dakota to make life hell for all men, misogynists and **STATIC** alike! **DEATHWISH #1** **Blaustein, Williams III, Palmiotti, Brown; ships November 8th** The first Milestone miniseries! Dakota Police Lieutenant **MARISA RAHM** is stymied by a psychopathic serial killer until **DEATHWISH**, the psycho killer from **HARDWARE #5-7**, breaks himself out of jail to help her out! Takes one to know one! **HARDWARE POSTER** by **DENYS COWAN** and **KENT WILLIAMS!**

## DECEMBER MILESTONES™

**■ HARDWARE #22** Clay, Ramos, Rollins, Brown; Ships October 11th When **ALVA** recruits a brilliant young African American scientist, **Curt Metcalf** suspects his boss of trying to make another **HARDWARE!** Can there only be one? **■ ICON #20** McDuffie, Bright, Gustovich & J. Scott J.; Ships October 18th **THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION**, part THREE! Before **ICON** leaves for his home planet, he and Detective **NEBRASKA MacCULLUM** are going to tie up some loose ends. Guest-starring **DHARMA, STATIC, PAYBACK, WISE SON, HARDWARE, ALVA** and the **FINAL, COMPLETE, SECRET OF THE BIG BANG!** **■ XOMBI #7** Rozum, Birch & Giddings; Ships October 18th **THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH**, part ONE! David Kim witnesses a murder-for-hire that goes horribly wrong when he crosses paths with **MANUEL DEXTERITY!** **■ BLOOD SYNDICATE #21** Velez Jr., ChrisCross; Quijano & Wrightson; ships October 25th A disastrous crackhouse raid becomes an opportunity for **MASQUERADE** to stab the rest of the **Syndicate** in the back! **■ SHADOW CABINET #7** Wayne, Leon, Martinbrough & Lacquerment; Ships October 25th **DHARMA's** double-dealing with **SYSTEM** brings him face-to-face with **EDWIN ALVA!** Plus, a guest appearance from **HARDWARE!** Plus, **PLUS!** **■ KOBALT #7** Rozum, Igle, Rae & Montoya; Ships November 1st **BLOWFLY** threatens to tear **Hemingway High** apart, but he didn't count on **PAGE** showing up — or **STATIC**, either! **■ STATIC #18** Washington III, Wilfred, Stanisci & Lacquerment; Ships November 1st **WHAT ARE LITTLE BOYS MADE OF?**, part THREE! **PRINCESS NIGHTMARE**, Empress of Ten Thousand Screaming Worlds of Terror, arrives in Dakota to make life hell for all men, misogynists and **STATIC** alike! **■ DEATHWISH #1** **Blaustein, Williams III, Palmiotti, Brown; ships November 8th** The first Milestone miniseries! Dakota Police Lieutenant **MARISA RAHM** is stymied by a psychopathic serial killer until **DEATHWISH**, the psycho killer from **HARDWARE #5-7**, breaks himself out of jail to help her out! Takes one to know one! **■ HARDWARE POSTER** by **DENYS COWAN** and **KENT WILLIAMS!**

WRITE TO:

# DEATHWISH

119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

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ADAM BLAUSTEIN, PRODUCTION MANAGER  
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Cover: J. H. Williams III / Noelle Giddings

# NEXT ISSUE:

SOME LIKE IT... NOT!

DANIELLO



SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP





NO. 2  
JAN  
US \$2.50  
CAN \$3.50  
UK £1.50

SUGGESTED FOR  
MATURE READERS

"YOU DON'T  
GET IT KIDDO  
THIS ISN'T A  
GAME!"

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



MILESTONE

# DEATHWISH

PAINT THE  
TOWN DEAD



DANIELLO

DIRECT SALES

00211



7 61941 20392 8

THIS IS THE CITY  
DAKOTA.

LIKE EVERY  
MAJOR URBAN  
CENTER, THERE'S  
A RED LIGHT  
DISTRICT.

SO CALLED ADULT  
ENTERTAINMENT  
OF ALL TYPES IS  
AVAILABLE BOTH  
LEGALLY AND  
ILLEGALLY.

DRAG-BARS LIKE  
"AMANDA'S ALLEY"  
ARE PROLIFIC IN  
THIS PRECINCT.

HERE, FOR THE PRICE OF A DRINK  
AND A SAW-BUCK, AFTER-WORK  
ADMIRERS CAN CHOOSE FROM A  
WHITMAN'S SAMPLER OF TRANS-  
VESTITES, TRANSSEXUALS, AND  
OTHER GENDER-TRANSIENTS.



NOT ALL THE  
'GIRLS'  
HERE ARE  
WORKING--



--BUT THE ONES  
THAT DO ARE  
ADEPT AT GIVING  
THE APPROPRIATE  
TACIT SIGNALS.



MOST ARE JUST  
LOOKING TO BE  
TREATED LIKE A  
LADY--

--AND FINDING A  
WAY TO PAY THE  
RENT ON TIME.





THE **G**UYS ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HAVE THEIR CAKE AND **E**AT IT TOO.

I'D BEEN GETTING NO PLACE, WORKING THE SEAPORT SECTION OF THE CITY ON A CASE INVOLVING THE SERIAL MURDERS OF TRANS-VESTITE CALL-GIRLS--

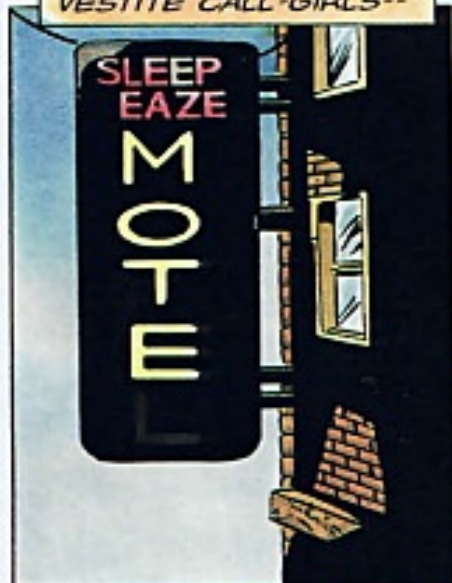


SOME OF EM, ANYWAY--



HEY, MISTER-- YOU NEED A GIRL-FRIEND?

NO.



--GIRLS JUST LIKE ANGEL

I'M KINDA NEW AT THIS, ANGEL--

I MEAN, UH--



--I'VE NEVER BEEN WITH A SHE-MALE BEFORE.

STEVE WEINTRAUB. AGE: FORTY-THREE. --WIFE, TWO KIDS AND A DOG NAMED SHELBY--



--SEEMS HE NEVER GOT HIS CHANCE--



--SEEMS THE  
CASE HAD TAKEN  
A NEW TURN.

FREEZE,  
TWISTO!

SOME  
LIKE  
IT...  
NOT!

WHAT POTIONS HAVE I DRUNK OF SIREN TEARS  
DISTILLED FROM LIMEBECKS FOUL AS HELL WITHIN,  
APPLYING FEARS TO HOPES AND HOPES TO FEARS,  
STILL LOSING WHEN I SAW MYSELF TO WIN!  
WHAT WRETCHED ERRORS HATH MY HEART COMMITTED  
WHILST IT HATH THOUGHT ITSELF SO BLESSED NEVER!  
HOW HAVE MINE EYES OUT OF THEIR SPHERES BEEN FITTED  
IN THE DISTRACTION OF THIS MADDING FEVER!

--W.M. SHAKESPEARE

HIS NAME WAS  
DEATHWISH.

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OKAY, SKIPPER-- I GOT YOUR MESSAGE. WHATTAYA--?

OOOHH NICE LOOK, LIEUTENANT.

SORTA SARAH CONNER MEETS COLUMBO?

WELL-- IF IT ISN'T THE KING OF POP-CULTURE.

WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWNTOWN, KEV?

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT MY NEW PARTNER.



WISH I COULD, GORGEOUS--

SKIPPER-- NO.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE YOU AND ME, MARTY.



THE SUCKER WAS TESTING ME-- LIKE THEY ALL DID. WANTED ME TO LOSE MY TEMPER IN FRONT OF THE SKIP.

MARISA.



C'MON, SKIP-- WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS A HUNDRED TIMES. I WORK MUCH BETTER ALONE, YA KNOW?

I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED TO BE SADDLED WITH LT. SENSITIVITY HERE.

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY.

CUT THE CRAP, THORNE--

--AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THIS IS *RAHM*'S CASE, AND YOU ARE ALONG TO FURNISH HER WITH ANY AND ALL ASSISTANCE-- COMPREHEND?



AS FOR YOU, *RAHM*-- CONSIDER LT. THORNE TO BE YOUR OWN PERSONAL CHAPERONE--

IF I WASN'T SPENDING MY VALUABLE TIME RUNNING INTERFERENCE FROM *I.A.D.* CONCERNING YOUR CONDUCT, YOUR NARROW BUTT WOULD BE PICKIN' UP SPLINTERS BY NOW--

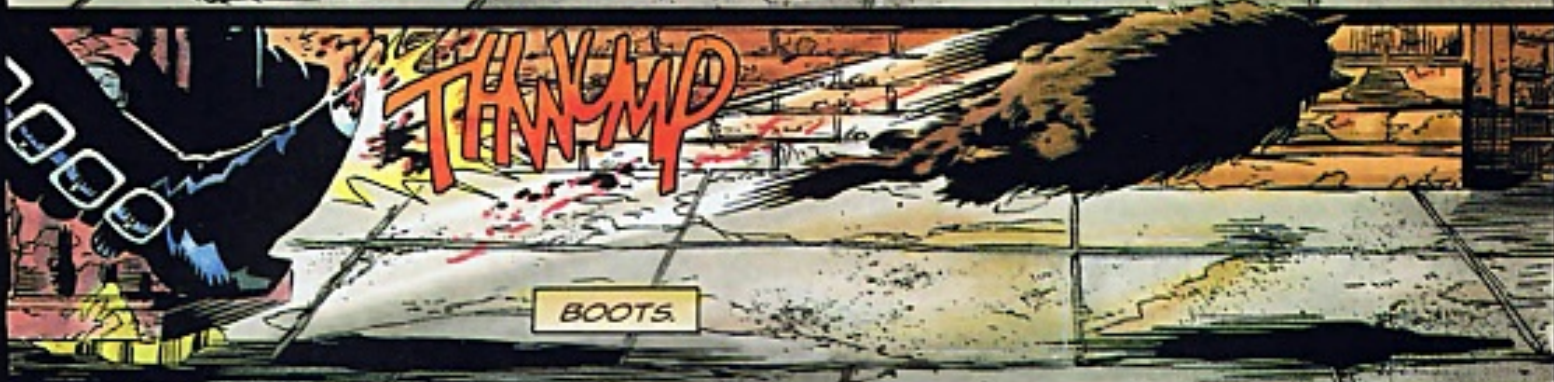
--YA KNOW?



SOMEWHERE IN THAT DAMNED CITY, HE WAS OUT THERE--

I'D BEEN CHASIN' HIM FOR FOUR-- ALMOST FIVE-- YEARS.

I MEAN-- I EVEN KNEW THIS SICKO'S NAME--



BOOTS.



PSYCHO-MUTHUH WAS KILLING THE GIRLS ALL OVER TOWN.

PSYCHO-MUTHUH PUT A TWO INCH GASH ACROSS MY LOVER'S FACE WITH A SWITCHBLADE.



THE CODE OF HAMMURABI SAID 'EYE FOR AN EYE-- TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'

THE CODE OF MARISA RAHM SAID 'WIFE THE SMIRK OFF HIS FACE WITH A COUPLE ROUNDS OF CITY OWNED STEEL.'



IS THAT UN-FEMINE OF ME?

DO YOU THINK I'M SICK?

TURNING THE CORPSES OF THE GIRLS FROM THE RENOWNED HOUSE OF DANZIG INTO "SCULPTURE" WAS SICK!



A LOT OF THE GIRLS IN DAKOTA HAD ORGANIZED THEMSELVES INTO HOUSES-- SURROGATE FAMILIES WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE SAFE.

THEY WERENT.

HOW DO YA FIGURE THE MIND OF A KILLER?

MAYBE BOOTS THOUGHT HE WAS AN ARTIST --ON A MISSION TO BRING HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD.

WELL-- I WAS ON A MISSION, TOO.

THE SELF-APPOINTED SAVIOR OF THE GENDER-COMMUNITY.

WHERE'VE YA STASHED THE MOM--?

--WHERE'S DANA?

DANZIG

URVE

GOT HIM LOCKED UP IN THE JOHN --PRETTY FEISTY CHICKEN, DAD.

PUNCHED OUT WOLF-BOY AND BABY BEFORE WE COULD CUFF 'EM.

I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED, MY SON--





SHORTLY AFTER  
MOVING IN TOGETHER,  
DINI WENT AND BOUGHT  
ME A COMPUTER.



FOUR YEARS OF CASE-  
NOTES, ON SMALL SLIPS  
OF PAPER, TURNING UP  
ALL OVER THE APART-  
MENT DROVE HER CRAZY.

NOT AS CRAZY  
AS THE HOURS  
I WAS KEEPIN'--



HEY, LOVER!  
WHEN ARE YOU  
COMING TO  
BED?

SORRY, BABY.  
JUST GOIN' OVER  
MY NOTES-- I  
KNOW I'M MISSING  
SOMETHING.

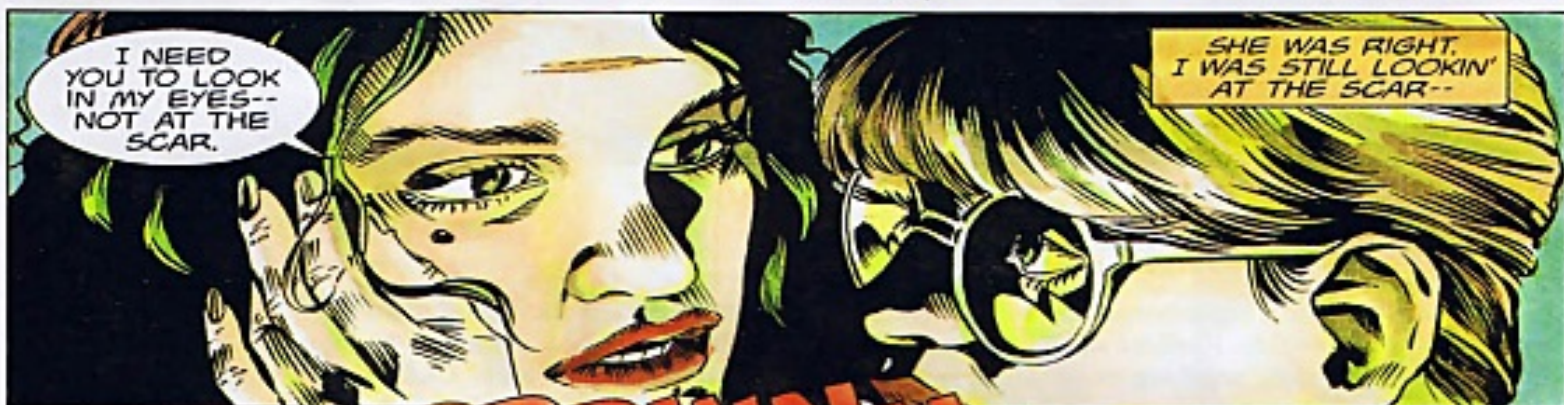
YOU'RE  
MISSING  
YOUR LIFE,  
MADDIE!

I DON'T  
NEED TO BE  
AVENGED.



I NEED  
YOU TO LOOK  
IN MY EYES--  
NOT AT THE  
SCAR.

SHE WAS RIGHT.  
I WAS STILL LOOKIN'  
AT THE SCAR--



**BBRIIING**

AND I WAS STILL  
ANSWERING THE  
PHONE EVERY  
TIME IT RANG.



**BBRIIING**

I WAS BORN  
ON THE CASE.







FIRST AVENUE  
BRIDGE. 9:15 A.M.

WELL  
*THIS* IS  
A HELLISH  
SETTING.

TELL ME  
--DO YOU  
ALWAYS BRING  
YOUR GIRLS TO  
SUCH *NICE*  
PLACES?

GLIBNESS  
DOESN'T  
BECOME  
YOU, KIDDO.

THE EVENTS  
SURROUNDING  
YOUR CASE ARE  
FAST REACHING  
THEIR APEX.

THE TIME  
HAS COME  
FOR YOU TO  
EXERCISE FAR  
STERNER  
MEASURES.

I'VE GOT  
A COUPLE OF  
QUESTIONS  
--FIRST.

A LOT OF  
*JOHNS* IN  
THE CITY HAVE  
BEEN FOUND  
STIFF LATELY.  
YOUR *M.O.*

I  
WANT TO  
KNOW  
WHY.

YOU  
*KNOW*  
WHY.



I'M ON A  
MISSION.

IF YOU  
OPENED YOUR  
EYES TO THE  
LARGER PICTURE  
IT WOULD BE  
*YOUR* MISSION,  
AS WELL.



YOU  
KNOW ME  
VERY WELL,  
MARISA  
RAHM.

WE  
ARE THE  
*SAME*.



THE SAME.



WILL YOU  
TAKE UP THE  
SWORD?

NOT  
TODAY,  
WILT--



WE'RE GOIN'  
DOWNTOWN.



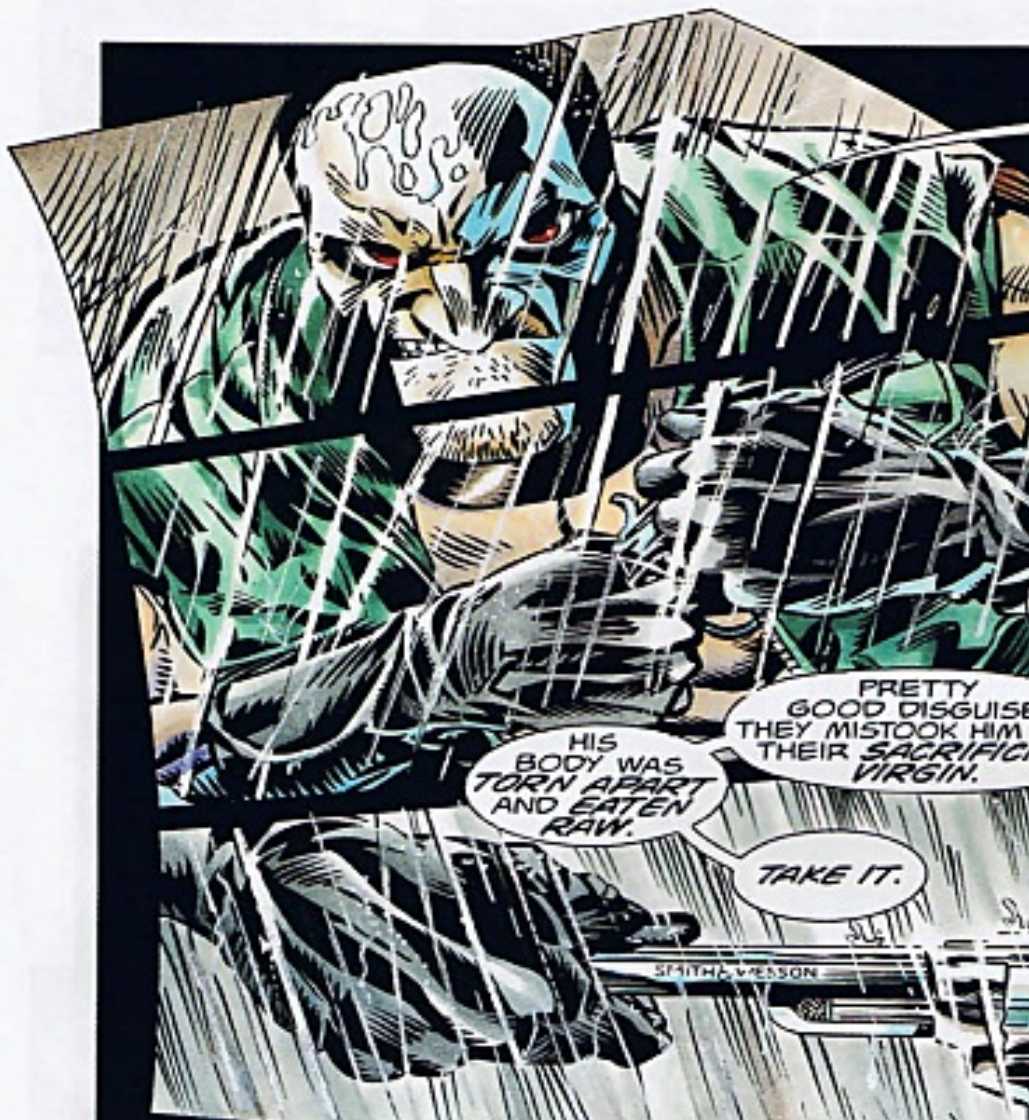
YOU  
DON'T  
GET IT,  
KIDDO!



"THIS ISN'T  
A GAME."



GOOD.  
'COS  
I DON'T  
PLAY!



THERE'S THIS STORY IN ANCIENT GREEK TRAGEDY ABOUT A GUY NAMED **PENTHEUS**.

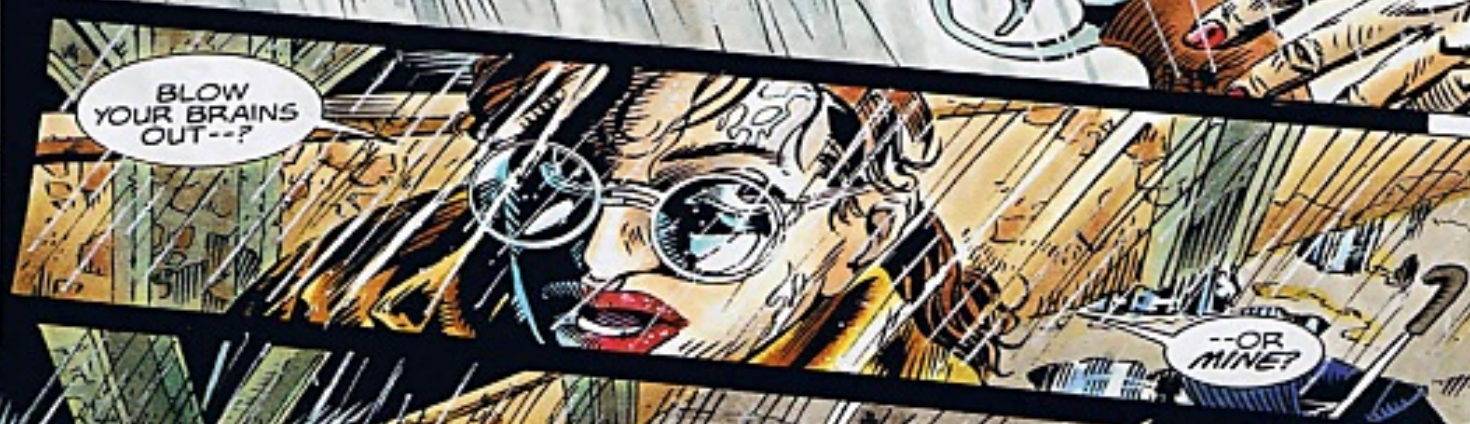
SEEMS HE WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE **DIONYSIAN** RITUAL OF **SPARAGMOS** WHERE THE INITIATES USED TO LITERALLY **TEAR IT UP** ON THE DANCE FLOOR IN A BLOOD-SOAKED ORGY OF **DEATH**.

THIS **PENTHEUS** GOT IT INTO HIS HEAD TO DISGUISE HIMSELF AS A **MAENAD**, A FEMALE WORSHIPPER OF **DIONYSUS**, AND PASSIVELY OBSERVE THE RITUAL.

PRETTY GOOD DISGUISE. THEY MISTOOK HIM FOR THEIR **SACRIFICIAL VIRGIN**.

HIS BODY WAS **TORN APART** AND **EATEN RAW**.

TAKE IT.



BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT--?

--OR MINE?



HIS.

I HAD SO MUCH  
SPINNIN' THROUGH MY  
MIND BACK THEN.

LIKE HOW TO  
KEEP MY BABY OUT  
OF THE STORY--

--HOW TO KEEP  
THE DARK CLOUDS  
OF DAKOTA FROM  
GATHERIN' OVER  
SACHEM CITY--

--HOW TO KEEP  
MYSELF FROM  
BEING TORN  
APART AND  
EATEN RAW.



MY HERBIE  
WAS A COP.  
I DIVORCED  
HIM WHEN HE  
WENT OVER  
THE EDGE.

MARISA'S NOT  
LIKE THAT, SLIM.  
WHEN THIS  
CASE IS OVER  
WE'RE MOVING  
TO PARIS.





"WHEN, IN DISGRACE  
WITH FORTUNE, AND  
MEN'S EYES,



"I ALL ALONE  
BEWEEP MY  
OUTCAST STATE,



"AND TROUBLE  
DEAF HEAVEN  
WITH MY BOOT-  
LESS CRIES,



"AND  
LOOK UPON  
MYSELF--



"--AND  
CURSE MY  
FATE."



1:36 AM. AMANDA'S ALLEY.

ME AND KEVBO ON  
STAKEOUT.

ALLEY

CHECK CASHING

THE I CHING  
SAYS YOU CAN  
KNOW A MAN BY  
WHAT HE EATS.

'NUFF SED WE  
ALL HAVE FLAWS.

ME, I'VE GOT AN  
ANNOYING HABIT OF  
CHECKIN' MYSELF IN  
THE MIRROR.

SEEMS  
DEATHWISH  
HAD AN  
ANNOYING  
HABIT OF  
TRAILING ME.

MARTIN  
WOULDBE BEEN  
OUTTA THE CAR,  
GUN DRAWN.

MARTIN PLAYED  
BY THE RULES.

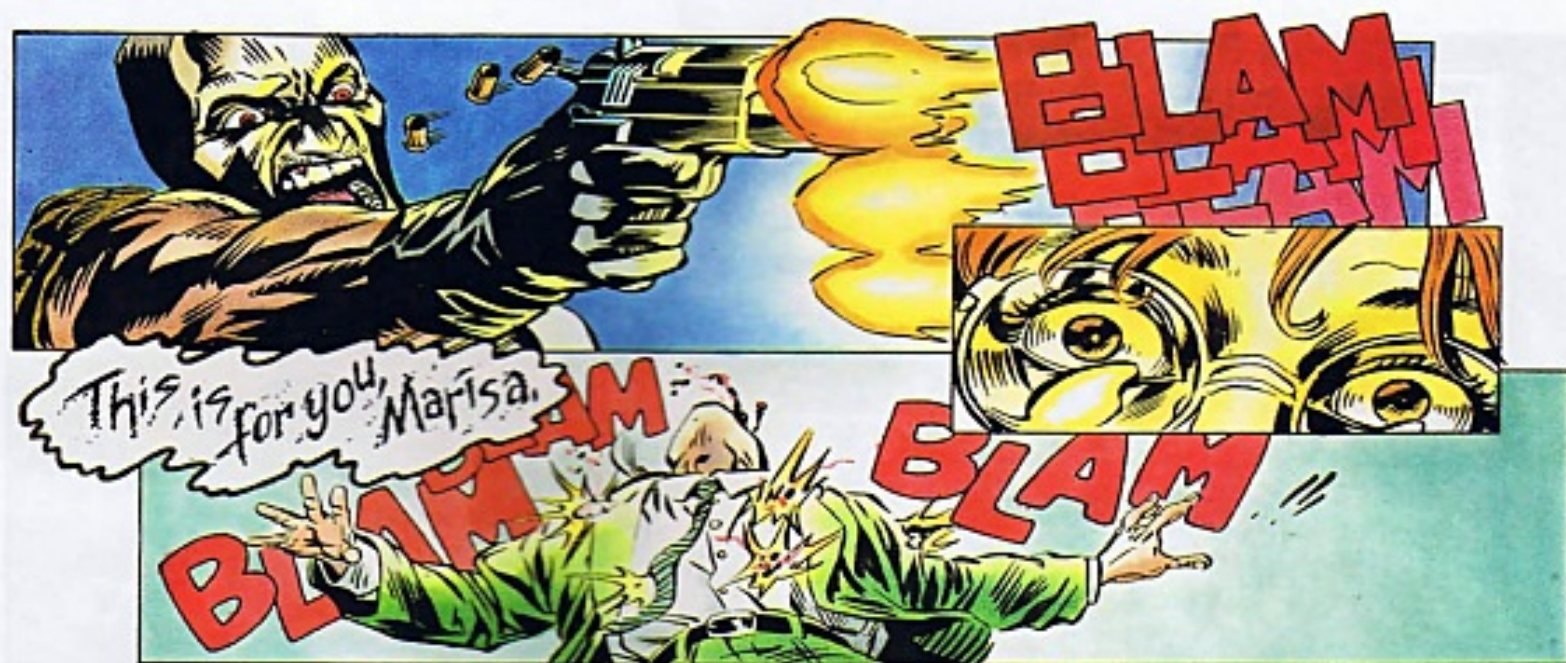
MARTIN WAS  
DEAD.

AND MAYBE  
THERE WAS  
MORE THAN ONE  
DEATHWISH ON  
THE CASE.









TWO LOVES I HAVE, OF COMFORT AND DESPAIR,  
WHICH LIKE TWO SPIRITS DO SUGGEST ME STILL:  
THE BETTER ANGEL IS A MAN RIGHT FAIR,  
THE WORSE SPIRIT A WOMAN COLORED ILL.  
TO WIN ME SOON TO HELL, MY FEMALE EVIL  
TEMPTETH MY BETTER ANGEL FROM MY SIDE,  
AND WOULD CORRUPT ANY SAINT TO BE A DEVIL,  
WOOLING HIS PURITY WITH HER FOUL PRIDE,  
AND WHETHER THAT MY ANGEL BE TURNED FIEND  
SUSPECT I MAY, YET NOT DIRECTLY TELL;  
BUT BEING BOTH FROM ME, BOTH TO EACH FRIEND  
I GUESS ONE ANGEL IN ANOTHER'S HELL.

YET THIS SHALL I NEER KNOW, BUT LIVE IN DOUBT,  
TILL MY BAD ANGEL FIRE MY GOOD ONE OUT.



ADAM BLAUSTEIN writer • YVES FEZZANI plot assist  
J. H. WILLIAMS III penciller • JIMMY PALMIOTTI inker  
J. BROWN painted color • JOSEPH DANIELLO letterer • DWAYNE MCDUFFIE editor



WRITE TO: THE COMPANY LINE  
MILESTONE MEDIA INC., 119 WEST 23RD STREET  
SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

## MILESTONE'S NEXT GENERATION

MILESTONE's not just getting better, it's getting BIGGER! Since we began almost two years ago, some of the best and brightest young minds in the industry have been drawn to us like flies to the substance of your choice. Here are the latest bunch to alight on us:

• **MARK W. BENNETT** - The new guy in Production isn't new at all. Mark's been assisting in Editorial for months, but he man-



*Mari and Joe M.*

aged to switch to the NEW new position just as we went to press! He's a graduate of the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan and a recipient of the John Johnson Award for Media Excellence. Now, he's kept busy with last-minute art corrections and any other production work that needs doing. Mark is another graduate of our internship program.

• **MARI HASHIMOTO** made a switch, too. From out of the ranks of our internship program came Mari to assist Christine the mighty Communicator, but she's already moved over to become the new Mark W. Bennett for Editorial! She is now the new

Editorial Assistant. She is also a recent graduate of Oberlin College where she double majored in English and Women's Studies.

• **JOSEPH G. MALONEY** - When Joseph Illidge, Assistant to the President and Administrator extraordinaire, needs something done, Joseph's the one to do it. Joseph's major at Kingsborough College was pre-med, but he's finding that there's a lot of doctoring in a supply requisition, too!

• **JOSEPH DANIELLO** - Hardly a new face, Joe has been making his mark as a letterer here since **STATIC** #12. His trail of hard work is about to become a trench, as he's regularly begun to design logos for us (for instance, the new



*Joe D., Buttinsky Burrell, Jacquie*

**SHADOW CABINET**, **DEATHWISH** and **HOLOCAUST** logos.) Look for his coloring job on **DEATHWISH** #2, too! Joe is a proud graduate of the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art.

(Even more importantly, Joe's living proof that one out of every five people in the office is named Joe. This has been true since the very beginning. While Joes are sorely underrepresented elsewhere in this industry, we're proud to have more than our share at Milestone. But then, our Joes are the good ones.)

• **FELICIA GARTRELL** - Our new receptionist mans the phones and wards off aggressive salesmen. Multitalented as all of our new hires are, Felicia is also a licensed hair stylist, a model (you'll see her in **ESSENCE** magazine), and a junior at York College majoring in psychology.

• **JACQUELINE SHACKELFORD** - Artist extraordinaire, Jacquie assists Creative Director Denys Cowan. She's a graduate of Pratt Institute, with an emphasis in illustration, and concentration on oil painting, sculpting and collage art. Jacquie's creative contributions are manifold. You may not have seen her work in any comics, but



*Burrell, Felicia, Mark*

her hand is in everything else — letterhead, business cards, trading cards, et cetera.

• **ANDREW BURRELL** - You've seen color assistant Burrell's work on **WORLDS COLLIDE**, **XOMBI** #5, and the outstanding covers of **HARDWARE** #20 and **BLOOD SYNDICATE** #19. Burrell is not only a fast learner, but a talented illustrator in his own right. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Burrell's easy charm makes him a pleasure to work with. It's almost as good as if he were named Joe!

## SOMEWHERE ON THIS PAGE

—there's a picture of the new **HARDWARE** poster, by **DENYS COWAN**, **KENT WILLIAMS** and **RICHARD ORY**! It's the thing to seek out! Not to mention, we're appalled that we didn't show a picture of it last month.



*HARDWARE FOR SALE! (Poster-wise)*



*FLAVOR OF THE M.D. BRIGHT COVER MONTH: XOMBI #8!*

## JANUARY MILESTONES

□ **HARDWARE** #23 Ships November 15th "TRUST NEVER SLEEPS" heats up, when **HARDWARE** is up against a **SYSTEMATIC** with a message! □ **ICON** #21 Ships November 22nd **THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION** concludes when **ICON** checks out, leaving a bewildered and very pregnant **ROCKET** to fend for herself! □ **XOMBI** #8 Ships November 22nd **THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH**, part TWO! **BLISTER ED**, a fiery construct of words spoken in anger, has something to say to **DAVID KIM**! □ **BLOOD SYNDICATE** #22 Ships November 29th **KWAI**'s mortally wounded! **MOTHER** needs a dupe, and finds **MASQUERADE**! □ **SHADOW CABINET** #8 Ships November 29th The abandoned Cabinet ops battle on, while **DHARMA**'s new recruit, **STARLIGHT**, starts blasting! □ **KOBALT** #8 Ships December 6th A small-time crook may be **ST. CLOUD**'s bait to lure **KOBALT** into a deadly trap. Featuring new penciller **ERIC BATTLE**, and a guest appearance by **HARDWARE**, who shows up to plug his poster! □ **STATIC** #19 Ships December 6th As Dakota becomes a war zone of anti-gay violence, **STATIC** finds himself in a fiery confrontation with the **SONS OF ODIN**, and one of his oldest enemies! Featuring new series writer **IVAN VELEZ, JR.** □ **DEATHWISH** #2 Ships December 6th As Police Lt. **MARISA RAHM** comes closer to solving the grisly serial killings, **DEATHWISH**'s escape from prison makes him a suspect!

WRITE TO:

**DEATHWISH**

119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409  
NEW YORK, NY 10011

MILESTONE MEDIA, INC.  
DEREK T. DINGLE, PRESIDENT  
DWAYNE McDUFFIE, EDITOR IN CHIEF  
DENYS B. COWAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
MATT WAYNE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
ADAM BLAUSTEIN, PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JACQUELINE CHING, ASSISTANT EDITOR  
JASON SCOTT JONES, COLOR EDITOR  
CHRISTINE N. GILLIAM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS  
JOSEPH ILLIDGE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
ALLEN A. EPPS, C.P.A., ACCOUNTING SERVICES  
BOB STEIN, LEGAL SERVICES

Cover: J. H. Williams III / Joseph Daniello

# NEXT ISSUE:

## DAKOTA IS BURNING



SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP





3  
FEB

BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI



"GETTING  
INSIDE THE  
MIND OF A  
NUT IS  
DANGEROUS  
BUSINESS"

US \$2.50  
CAN \$3.50  
UK £1.50



# DEATHWISH

KNOCKIN' BOOTS

WANTED:  
DEAD OR ALIVE

A SLIGHT  
CASE OF  
OVER  
BOMBING

THE  
GOLDEN  
RULE

WHAT?

THIS LUY'S  
ULLY!

WHY?

THE NE FILIM

I WAS HERE  
DO YOU KNOW

FEAR

SYNCHATE  
TURE

NO BLOOD

RICK


NOR  
NOE



DIRECT SALES

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HOW CAN I THEN RETURN IN HAPPY FLIGHT  
THAT AM DEBARRED THE BENEFIT OF REST,  
WHEN DAY'S OPPRESSION IS NOT EASED BY NIGHT,  
BUT DAY BY NIGHT AND NIGHT BY DAY OPPRESSED,  
AND EACH, THOUGH ENEMIES TO EITHER'S REIGN,  
DO IN CONSENT SHAKE HANDS TO TORTURE ME.

--W.M. SHAKESPEARE



HAPPY  
CHANUKAH,  
KIDDO!

I  
BROUGHT  
YOU A NEW  
TOY!

BLOW  
MY BRAINS  
OUT!

OR BLOW  
OUT YOUR  
OWN--

"YOUR DECISION."

POLICE!  
FREEZE!!

WHAT  
DO YOU WANT,  
MARTIN?

I'M  
TAKIN' BACK  
OUR BODY,  
MARISA!

AS A  
COP, YOU'RE  
A WASHOUT!  
RULES WERE MADE  
TO BE FOLLOWED  
OR SOCIETY  
COLLAPSES--

--AND  
AS FAR AS I'M  
CONCERNED YOUR  
VERY EXISTENCE  
BREAKS THE  
RULES.

YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT  
TO REMAIN  
SILENT--

I  
CREATED  
YOU, MARTIN.  
YOU WERE ONLY A  
FRONT-MAN FOR  
A WORLD THAT  
WASN'T READY  
FOR ME.

REMEMBER  
HOW SCARED YOU  
WERE WHEN YOU SAW  
ME IN THE MIRROR...  
LIKE YOU WERE  
GONNA DIE.

TOOOOOO  
RIGHT.

BLAM  
BLAM  
BLAM





# DAKOTA IS BURNING

**ADAM  
BLAUSTEIN**  
writer

**YVES  
FEZZANI**  
plot assist

**J. H.  
WILLIAMS III**  
penciller

**JIMMY  
PALMIOTTI**  
inker

**J. BROWN**  
painted color

**JOSEPH  
DANIELLO**  
letterer

**DWAYNE  
MCDUFFIE**  
editor

GIVE UP THE CASE. SHE REALLY THOUGHT IT WAS THAT SIMPLE.

MY LOVE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME. WE SHARED SO MUCH THAT WAS SIMILAR. SOCIETY CALLED US "PRE-OPERATIVE TRANSSEXUALS," THO' NEITHER OF US EVER INTENDED TO BE "POST."



WE WERE JUST TWO GIRLS FORCED TO GROW UP AS BOYS-- WITH ENOUGH GRIT TO TURN AROUND AND TELL THE WORLD TO SCREW ITSELF.



MY LOVE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME-- EXCEPT ONE THING.

SHE WASN'T A COP, YA KNOW?

WHEN I WAS STILL LT. LEON MARTIN RAHM IT WAS THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT WAS HONEST.

THE SEAPORT MURDER CASE INVOLVING THE SERIAL MURDERS OF PRE-OP CALL-GIRLS HAD BEEN MY BABY FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS NOW. DINI WAS THE ONLY VICTIM TO SURVIVE.



SHE FELT GUILTY ABOUT THAT.

THE CASE WAS DRIVING US APART.



I WANTED THE WORLD TO STOP SPINNING. I CAME CLOSE TO QUITTING THE FORCE A THOUSAND TIMES.

THEN I'D SEE THAT DAMNED SCAR--



--AND THE PAIN IN HER EYES--



--AND I WAS A COP AGAIN.



WHERE I WOULD BE GREETED BY THE KIND FACES OF MY FELLOW OFFICERS.

HEY, RAHM. YA GOT FRIES TO GO WITH THAT SHAKE?



THANK THE GODDESS FOR THE CAPTAIN. SKIPPER AND ME WENT BACK A LONG WAY. HE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME.

COFFEE LOOK, SKIP. I'M SORRY 'BOUT THE WAY IT WENT DOWN WITH THORNE, BUT I TOLD YOU COFFEE NO PARTNERS. I WORK BETTER ALONE.

LET ME FINISH WHAT I'VE STARTED. BE A FRIEND.

IF I WERE A REAL FRIEND I'D TAKE YOU OFF THE CASE. YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF WAY TOO HARD, MARISA--

--I NEVER HAD THIS PROBLEM WITH MARTIN.

DAMNIT! I'LL SAY IT. I MISS HIM.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE SCHIZO, YA KNOW?

I DIDN'T KILL MARTIN. MARTIN WASN'T REAL! IT'S ALWAYS THE ROUGHEST DEALING WITH FRIENDS LIKE SKIP. THE ONES THAT'D BOUGHT THE HYPE.

HE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME-- EXCEPT ONE THING. HE WASN'T TRANSGENDERED.

I MISS HIM TOO, GIL.

THE SHRINKS CALL IT  
GENDER DYSPHORIA.  
THERE ARE AS MANY  
TYPES OF IT AS THERE  
ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT.

I HAD AN AWFUL  
FEELING THAT ITS  
WORST INCARNATION  
WAS STALKING THE  
STREETS IN A PAIR OF  
STEEL-POINTED BOOTS.

IF THE SPECTRUM  
OF MANKIND CAN  
COVER EVERYTHING  
FROM GOD TO  
THE DEVIL--

--THEN I GUESS  
IT CAN COVER  
AN ANGEL--

I  
COUNT ONLY  
SIX PAIR.

--AND A BOOTS.

I  
TOLD THESE  
FAGGOTS  
TO WATCH--

SILENCE,  
CRETIN.

DO  
NOT IMPUGN THE  
REPUTATION OF  
THESE CHERUBS.  
THEY ARE ANGELS  
WITH SULLIED  
WINGS, AND I HAVE  
TAKEN IT AS MY  
CHARGE TO  
RETURN THEM TO  
THEIR BLISS.

Poor soul, the  
center of my sinful earth,  
Fooled by these rebel  
powers that thee array,  
Why dost thou pine within  
and suffer dearth,  
Painting thy outward  
walls so costly gay?

YOUR  
NEGLIGENCE  
HAS EARNED  
YOU A  
PROMOTION--

FROM  
ARTIST TO  
ART.

GETTIN' INSIDE THE MIND OF A  
NUT IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

YOU GOTTA FIND THE  
NUT INSIDE, YA KNOW?

I REMEMBER HOW  
FRIGHTENED MARTIN  
USED TO BE THAT I  
WOULD TAKE OVER--  
THAT I WAS STRONGER.  
THAT BASTARD KEPT ME  
IN CHAINS.

**THUK**

I REMEMBERED HOW  
OFTEN HE TRIED TO  
SYMBOLICALLY KILL ME--  
STUFFIN' MY CLOTHES  
AND MAKEUP IN A DUMP-  
STER IN AN EFFORT TO  
PURGE HIMSELF OF  
THE DEMON GODDESS.

"I THINK NO FACE SO GRACIOUS IS AS MINE,  
NO SHAPE SO TRUE, NO TRUTH OF SUCH ACCOUNT,  
AND FOR MYSELF MINE OWN WORTH DO DEFINE  
AS I ALL OTHER IN ALL WORTH'S SURMOUNT.  
BUT WHEN MY GLASS SHOWS ME MYSELF INDEED,  
BEATED AND CHOPPED WITH TANNED ANTIQUITY,  
MINE OWN SELF-LOVING WERE INIQUITY.  
TIS THEE (DINI) THAT FOR MYSELF I FRAISE,  
PAINTING MY AGE WITH BEAUTY OF THY DAYS."

WAS I OUT TO PUNISH  
BOOTS-- OR MARTIN?  
WAS THIS MY OWN  
DEATHWISH?

I'M GONNA SKIP AHEAD IT'S A HOT SUMMER NIGHT-- JULY 8TH I REMEMBER 'COS IT WAS ME AND DINI'S FOURTH ANNIVERSARY TOGETHER.

SINCE I WAS THE MAN IN THE RELATIONSHIP, I SENT THE FLOWERS. DOZEN LONG STEMS.



HIYA, BABY! DIDJA GET 'EM!?

110°F-- FIRST TIME I'D WORN A SKIRT TO THE PRECINCT.

DINI'S SILVER-TONGUED VOICE COOING IN MY EAR WAS MAKIN' ME A LITTLE-- YA KNOW-- AMOROUS.

KESS-KA-SAY IN FRANCAIS? I HAD A WOOD NEZ-FAHH?



--STOP IT, SWEETS! I'LL BE HOME EARLY-- GOTTA SURPRISE FOR YA--!

--MMMMM-- MM-- I LOVE YOU, TOO-- BYEEEEEE.

GUESS I FORGOT WHERE I WAS--

I GOTTA SURPRISE FER YA-- RIGHT HERE!



WHAT!?

DIAL 976- RAHM! HEH HEH.

GOOD ONE, PANETTI!

OOOOOOOO! THFORTY LIL' MODEL-- ITHTN'T SHE!



AS A MAN AND A WOMAN, I'D WORKED WITH THESE OFFICERS FOR CLOSE TO TEN YEARS. HELL-- I TOOK A BULLET SAVIN' PANETTI'S BUTT IN A DRUG BUST!

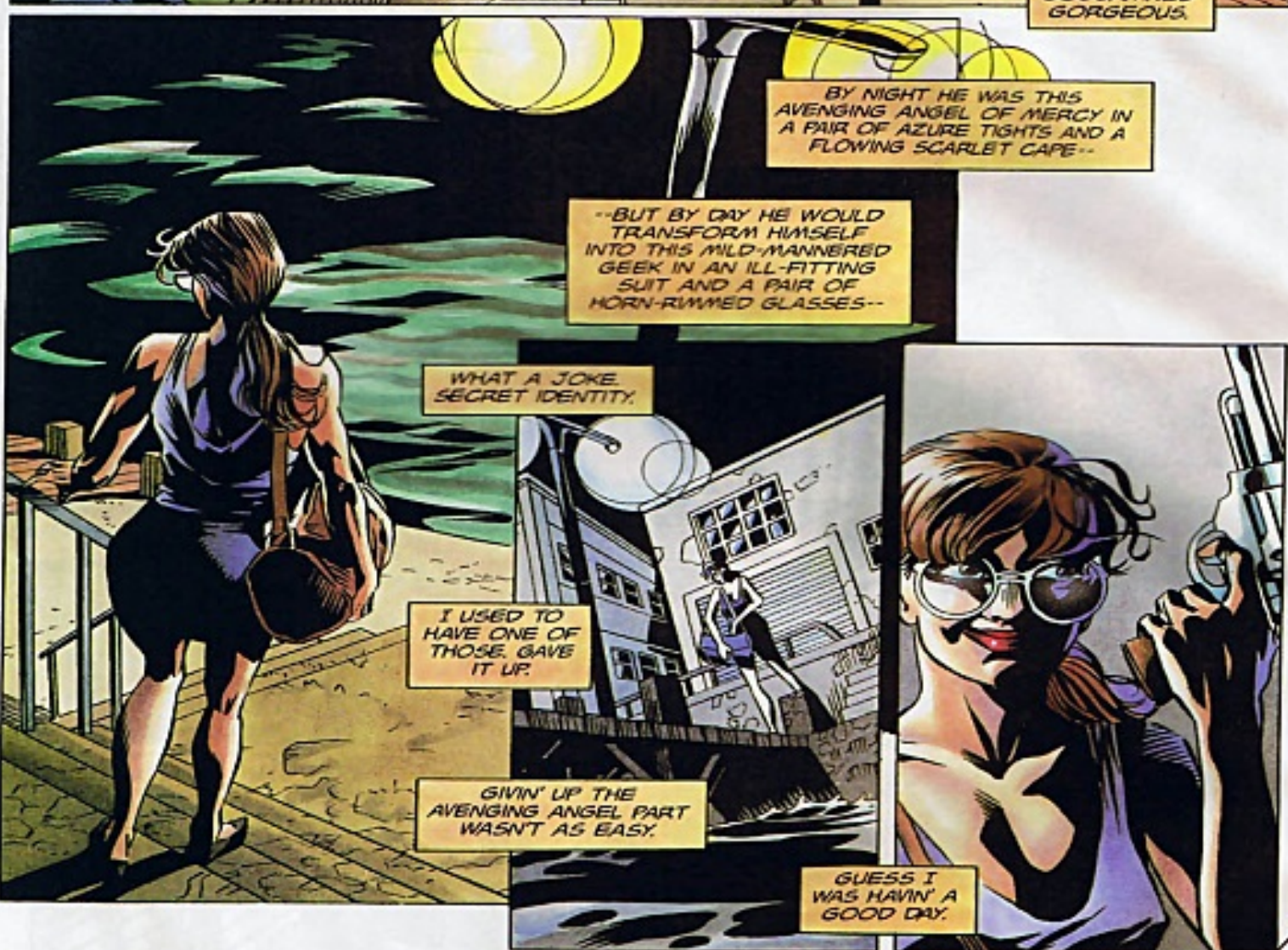
LET'S SEE WHAT SHE'S GOT UNDER THE HOOD.



DEATHWISH WAS ALWAYS TELLIN' ME ABOUT THIS MOVIE-- THERE'S THIS GIRL AND SHE GETS PUSHED TOO FAR SO SHE DECIDES TO PUSH BACK









TOO BAD I WASN'T  
WRITIN' THE STORY.

HANG ON A SECOND  
I WANNA READ YOU  
SOMETHING, OKAY?

IT'S AN ENTRY FROM  
THE DIARY OF JAMES  
GORDON STALEY--

--BOOTS

"and so I find myself at a crossroads  
in my expression as an artist.

"--Art as Appropriation  
versus Art as Life.

--By signing his name to  
a urinal, Duchamp trumpeted  
the call to artists that mere  
appropriation and presentation  
was all that was required to  
transform the common into  
the sublime--

"--Yet I find this  
to be simplistic.

"--and Art is  
never simple.

"For how can the mere proclamation that the profane is sacred suffice--

"--when beauty in the form of human expression of self outstrips the base utilitarianism of it's surroundings.



"And yet the elevation of these beautiful naifs to the status of art requires the service of an artist.

"I am an artist.



"It is the death of these most comely of scapegoats and their subsequent resurrection as art that is to be the focal point of my revels.

"And so they shall come from all over the city to tonight's Jornada del Muerto.



"A drag ball to end all drag balls-- in a Dionysian rite of spraying blood and crunching bone.



"In tribute to The Diva."



THANK THE GODDESS  
FOR SLIMMIE.

YOU COULD ALWAYS COUNT  
ON LINDA IN A CRISIS--

# Angela's Room

FINE CLOTHING FOR FINE WOMEN

--AND PICKIN' OUT A NICE  
OUTFIT FOR MY DATE WITH  
DINI WAS, FOR ME, A CRISIS.

THINK  
SHE'LL LIKE  
ME IN THIS  
ONE, SLIM?

MS.  
FEM WOULD  
LIKE YOU IN A  
POTATO SACK,  
MADDIE.

TRY  
IT ON.

IT'S  
GETTIN'  
CLOSE TO  
ELEVEN,  
LINDA.

NOT LIKE  
DINI TO BE  
LATE.

DEFINITELY  
YOU...NOT!

DOESN'T  
MATTER, LET'S  
PAY FOR IT AND  
HEAD HOME.

I'M  
WORRIED.

NORMALLY,  
I WOULDN'T BE  
PUTTING ONE OF MY  
OFFICERS OUT ON  
THE STREETS SO  
SOON AFTER A  
SHOOTING...

CAPT. GIL  
SUMMERS

GUESS RAHM'S  
SAYIN' SAYONARA  
HAS LEFT YOU A  
MAN SHORT.

DON'T WORRY,  
CHIEF. LT. KEVIN  
THORNE WITH  
A CLIPPED WING  
IS WORTH TEN  
FREAKS LIKE  
MISS MARTY.

DON'T KID  
YOURSELF,  
THORNE.

MARISA  
RAHM WAS  
THE BEST.

IT'S A TEN MINUTE WALK  
FROM ANGELA'S TO HOME.

THREE MINUTES AND  
TWENTY-SEVEN SECONDS  
IF YOU RUN.

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN  
A COP AS LONG AS I  
WAS, YOU LEARN TO  
TRUST YOUR GUT.

MINE WAS  
ON FIRE.

LOCK ON OUR  
APARTMENT DOOR  
HAD BEEN JIMMIED.

WAIT  
HERE.

I'M  
GOIN' IN.

DINI WAS GONE.

I WASN'T  
WRITING THE  
STORY.



ORDER WAS GONE.

CHAOS RULED.



LINDA LOOKED LIKE THE FOSTER CHILD FOR THE BRADY BILL



'SOKAY, SLIM JUST PUT DOWN THE GUN--

--AND IF YOU'RE SQUEAMISH, YOU BETTER CLOSE YOUR EYES.



LOOK, DARLING, WE HAVE A SON!



DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR THE HOSPITAL.



THE NOTE ON THE DOOR GAVE DIRECTIONS TO A DRAG BALL AT THE HOUSE OF BOOTS--



--AND I WAS INVITED.





TO BE CONCLUDED



WRITE TO: THE COMPANY LINE  
MILESTONE MEDIA INC., 119 WEST 23RD STREET  
SUITE 405 NEW YORK, NY 10011

## MORE THAN JUST THE COLORIST

JASON SCOTT JONES, who signs his name "J. Scott J.," to confuse everybody, has taken a big step up — to become our new Color Editor. He's proven himself time and again to have that unbeatable combination of talent, resourcefulness and narcolepsy that makes a great Color Assistant. He'll need to use all his ability to the fullest, though, because he's got some big shoes to fill: Those of departing Color Editor NOELLE C. GIDDINGS.

It's a good bet that we couldn't have made it this far without Noelle. Her sensibilities are all over every page of Milestone comics, and regularly drummed into Jason's head. She'll be sorely missed. But we still win; now that the life of the free lance has called out to her, she'll be doing even more of the part she likes best: Painting the books. Look for her work on the new HOLOCAUST miniseries and every ongoing issue of XOMBI, not to mention the Big Secret Project.

We're all going to miss Noelle, but we're also excited for Jason, and can't wait to see him in action. Like so many comics pros, he started out as an intern for Milestone!

## KEEP READING THE FINE PRINT

—while Milestone presents an unprecedented Letters Column event! In anticipation of THE LONG, HOT SUMMER — our crossover riot beginning in July — every letter is a Letter of the Month! What does this mean for you? All letters that are printed between now and then will receive the attendant Letter of the Month prize — a signed copy of the issue in which it appears. At the end of the run, three lucky letter-writing winners will receive the BIG PRIZE: a LONG, HOT SUMMER poster autographed by



Separate vocations: Noelle moving out, J. Scott J. moving in, both moving up!

all the artists! Before then, you'll be hearing a lot more about this crossover that will alter the status quo in Dakota forever! So write us!

## HOW TO DRAW THE MILESTONE WAY

"Draw visitors," that is. We recently had the pleasure of schmoozing with around 30 students from LAWNSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL, in historic LAWNSIDE, NEW JERSEY. (Seriously, Lawnside is nearly 99 percent African American with roots in the Abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad.)

We had a chance to show our guests what goes into a Milestone comic, and they got to show us some of their own drawings and comics. Not a bad way to get acquainted. We're talking about going to Lawnside for a comics workshop sometime in the spring, so it looks like the start of something major!



Denys goes Lawnside!



ChrisCross (Michigan) and students!

## DESIGN O' THE TIMES

This past November, Milestone's NOELLE C. GIDDINGS, IVAN VELEZ, JR., and CHRIS CROSS led 50 NEW YORK CITY high school students on an "exploration" of design in the comic book industry. The program, ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES: THE URBAN UNIVERSE IN COMICS, was one in a series of Design Career Days being held at Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum this fall and spring for High School students.

Ivan began with a discussion of the writer's role. Chris followed with a his view of pencilling as drama. Finally, Noelle explained color in terms of visual energy and story.

Working one-on-one with the students, the Milestone group helped participants to come up with their own comics. At the end of the day, each team presented their work, and Ivan, Chris and Noelle just may have started a career or two!

## FEBRUARY MILESTONES.

**□ HARDWARE #24** Ships December 13th The "TRUST NEVER SLEEPS" storyline finishes off, as a renegade SYSTEMATIC threatens to finish off HARDWARE and ALVA!

**□ IKON #22** Ships December 20th The search for a new Hero of Dakota forces Raquel and the new ROCKET to a desperate measure — in fact, to the most desperate measure of ALL!

**□ XOMBI #9** Ships December 20th. Recommended for mature readers. THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH, part THREE! DAVID and JULIAN learn that the BELI MAH need DAVID for their dark metaphysics. Revealed at last: the meaning of the word, "XOMBI!"

**□ BLOOD SYNDICATE #23** Ships December 27th KWAI's unleashed magic causes the members of the SYNDICATE to revert to their pre-Big Bang forms! BOOGIE-MAN'S most intimate secret is uncovered!

**□ SHADOW CABINET #9** Ships December 27th STARLIGHT and PLUS join CAPTAIN RAY against 15 SYSTEMATICS, and DHARMA leaves the group — the HARD way! DON'T peek at the last page!

**□ KOBALT #9** Ships January 10th Whoever's trying to frame the KOBALT has caught the attentions of Detective JOE HOMILY! Meanwhile, love's in bloom when PAGE actually talks to MICHELLE!

**□ STATIC #20** Ships January 10th STATIC's climactic appearance at the gay rights rally may be VIRGIL HAWKINS' final appearance ANYWHERE when HOTSTREAK, his oldest enemy, fires up the crowd!

**□ DEATHWISH #3** Ships January 10th Recommended for mature readers. DEATHWISH plagues Police Lt. MARISA RAHM, while DINI falls within reach of BOOTS, the only psycho-killer worse than Deathwish!



FLAVOR OF THE MONTH: SHADOW CABINET #9!



# LOVE 'N' DEATH

**MILESTONE MEDIA, INC.**  
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DEATHWISH IS A FOUR ISSUE LIMITED SERIES. WRITE TO: LOVE 'N' DEATH 119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

## ADAM SPEAKS...

Since its inception, Milestone has brought you characters written from the unique experiences of its writers. Characters designed to break the sometimes monolithic nature of the stereotypical. When Editor in Chief Dwayne McDuffie approached me with the idea of writing a mini-series I was faced with the daunting challenge of what I could bring to Milestone's already bountiful table. I decided that like all the other writers at Milestone my contribution had to be no less than the sum of my experiences. If you're reading this now, I can only assume that you've met a woman named Marisa Rahm. Like other denizens of the Milestone's Dakota universe she is more than just entertainment (though I hope that she has been that as well). Marisa Rahm, though not exactly flesh and blood, is nonetheless very real. Like real people she may be endearing to some and offensive to others. She would no more apologize for being herself than I as a writer would apologize for bringing her into the world of comics.

Good writers write what they know. While I am by no means a police officer, I can certainly be argued that Dwayne McDuffie is not a super-hero (so far as I know). Dwayne is, however, an African-American male living in the latter part of the twentieth century, and that is an experience that must color his writing. Characters like Icon and Hardware are reflective of his experience. Marisa Rahm is reflective of mine.

The Deathwish miniseries is for me a very personal story that I truly feel could only have been published here at Milestone. From its beginnings almost a year ago as of this writing, the entire project has come together with an almost magical kind of luck. J.H. Williams III proved to be the absolute perfect choice to pencil this book (at times it seemed he read my mind). Jimmy Palmiotti's inking seemed to be wedded to J.H.'s artwork. James Brown's painted color both surprised and delighted me, as did the painted color covers by Noelle Giddings and Joseph Daniello. Joseph, who has so far lettered all the books I've written at Milestone did his usual superlative job. I want to thank them, and I want to thank both Milestone and DC who handled this project with an unprecedented amount of support. Mostly I want to thank my writing partner, Yves Fezzani, who is also my Dini. Te amo. Querida mia!

THANKS!  
Addie

Milestone Crew,

Intense! Very very intense. Thanks very much for the DEATHWISH preview that you hand

Cover: J.H. Williams / Jimmy Palmiotti / Noelle C. Giddings

ed out in San Diego. I think the Milestone titles are, book for book, the strongest line of comics currently published, and "DEATHWISH" is a fine addition to the line. His introduction in "HARDWARE" was chilling and quite ground breaking in that it got inside the head of Deathwish, examining the demons tormenting him, compelling his actions. It was handled in a far starker and more horrifying way than the crop of grim anti-hero vigilantes currently flooding the comics market. Adam Blaustein mentioned at your panel at the Con that the "DEATHWISH" miniseries would not be in the mold of other grim and gritty characters. The heart of this series would be a love story, and that the featured protagonist would be "a woman but not a female." Despite Milestone's track record, I was still a bit skeptical and so waited until the hustle and bustle of the Con was over to actually sit down and read it.

WOW! I'm impressed.

Blaustein and Fezzani's deft characterization drew me immediately into the story. This is indeed quite different from anything I'd encountered before, and this is just the first issue's exposition. I like Marisa Rahm. Had lesser talent written this character, I most likely would not have. One of the many appeals of Milestone is the overall absence of stereotypes and clichés. The Dakota universe is populated by real people with all the attendant hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, loves and loathing of real life. What could easily have been a one-dimensional cipher with little purpose other than the shock value has been transcendently limned as a vibrant, vital and sympathetic personality.

That the appearances of the titular character are brief but pivotal is also a plus, one I hope holds true for the remainder of the series. The sheer horror that Deathwish's mere appearance elicits is nearly palpable, fear tinged awe fairly drips from page four. Intense. The art, appropriately, is moody and clearly laid out so as to propel the narrative along at a proper pace, something, unfortunately, increasingly rare these days when solid storytelling takes a backseat to flash and dazzle. Thank you J.H. Williams! Jimmy Palmiotti's inking is clear, bold, and professional as always.

Appreciatively,  
Kevin Andre Shaw  
1239 W. 51st Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Dear Mr. Dwayne McDuffie,

"This Ain't No Cryin' Game" is a shame.

It's a shame that this segment of society has never been portrayed in a comic book of high caliber social consciousness as yours. Now, with the DEATHWISH miniseries, I'm enjoying

more of what you're good at: GREAT STORIES! A transsexual / serial-killer thriller! Has this ever been done before? I really admire the character of Lt. Marisa Rahm. She really has some big 'stones.' I can't wait! This story has me on pins and needles, needles and pins... It can only get hotter from here on out!!!

Sincerely,  
Leo Padilla  
Passaic, NJ

Deathwish,

Ain't nobody bad like the Deathwishman! I read it. I loved it. I'm waiting for the next one. Of course I'm talking about DEATHWISH #1. The writing and the art was great! But of course that's usual for a Milestone comic.

I had a feeling that you guys would come out with a couple of miniseries. Anyway, is there a chance this or the the Holocaust mini-series will become a regular series? Is there a chance we could be looking at a Deathwish / Hardware team-up or crossover!!!! Well, I know you guys are pretty busy up there so keep up the excellent work. You keep making them, and I'll keep buying them.

A loyal fan,  
David Hall  
2126 Bryanston Cr.  
Detroit, MI 48207

Never too busy to give you exactly what you want! HARDWARE #26 starts a three issue story arc entitled "The Hunt For Deathwish"! It's a Cyber-Gothic nightmare brought to you by Milestone's daemonic duo, Adam & Yves. They promise that you'll lose plenty of sleep reading this one. Look for it in thirty seven days!



**NEXT: REVENGE IS A DISH,  
BEST SERVED BALD!**

SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP





**4**  
**MAR**

**BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI**

*"IN DEATH  
THERE ARE  
NO RULES"*

US \$2.50  
CAN \$3.50  
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# DEATH WISH



NOELLE  
WILLIAMS III  
1994  
©

DIRECT SALES

00411



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DID YOU KNOW  
THAT WHEN YOU'RE  
DEAD THERE  
AREN'T ANY RULES?

THE BANAL MEANDERINGS OF  
LIFE BECOME MEANINGLESS.

THERE IS  
NO TIME.

THERE IS  
NO SPACE--

--AND BEAUTIFUL ANGELS  
WITH GLITTERING WINGS  
DANCE LIKE SHIVA  
BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.

TEN YEARS  
AGO I WAS IN  
THE LIFE.

I WAS MISS DINI  
LUNA, OF THE  
INCOMPARABLE  
HOUSE OF LUNA.

I WAS  
THE DIVA.

I WISH YOU COULD  
HAVE SEEN ME THEN,  
MY SWEETNESS.

I REMEMBER ALL OF IT.  
THE PROUD TEARS SHED  
BY MY MOTHER--

on  
Diva  
ball!

SOFT, BEAUTIFUL  
AND REEEAAALLL

THE ENTIRE  
WORLD WAS  
MY VIDEO

--LANA LUNA, MISS  
BANJI REALNESS, ETER-  
NAL PRINCESS OF  
PEACE, KNOWN BY HER  
FORMER PARENTS AS  
GEORGE SYMONS.

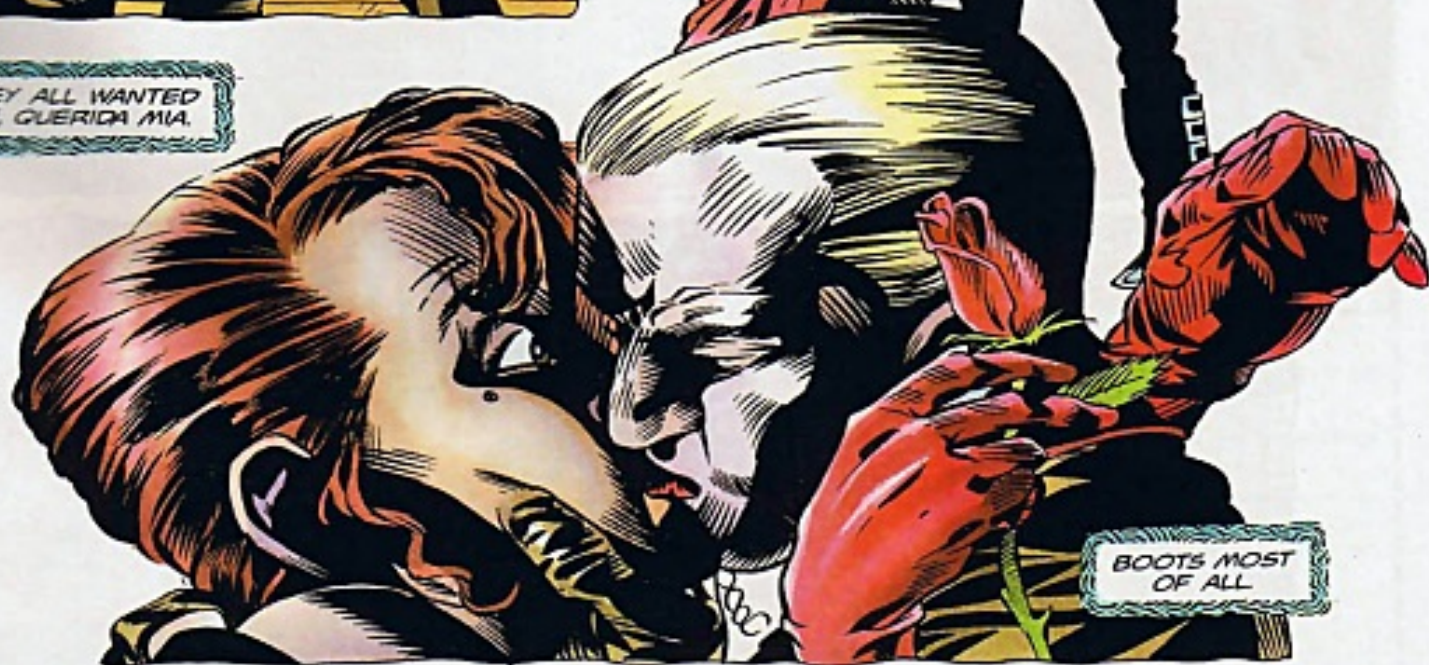
SHE WAS NO MORE A  
GEORGE THAN I WAS  
AN ESTEFAN.


I WAS A BRUJA  
WHO HAD SPUN  
FOR MYSELF AN  
INTOXICATING  
BUT SADLY  
FRAGILE SPELL.

A MOST  
ENCHANTING  
ILLUSION--

--MY  
DEAR  
BOY!

A SADLY  
FRAGILE  
SPELL.





ACTUALLY IT  
WAS WICKED  
FUNNY!



HA HA HA HA HA

KNEED THE  
FIG WHERE  
HE LIVED!



AFTER THAT I  
STARTED CALLING  
HIM FUSS IN  
BOOTS.



I'M SORRY.



WISH  
YOU  
COULD  
HEAR  
ME  
SWEETNESS

**ADAM BLAUSTEIN**  
writer

**YVES FEZZANI**  
plot assist

**J. H. WILLIAMS III**  
penciller

**JIMMY PALMIOTTI**  
inker

**J. BROWN**  
painted color

**JOSEPH DANIELLO**  
letterer

**DWAYNE MCDUFFIE**  
editor

10:56 PM, NEVERLAND

BOOTS WAS  
THROWIN' A BLOOD-  
BATH AND ALL THE  
GIRLS WERE INVITED

WELL NOT ALL--  
NO COPS AND  
NO GEE-GEES,  
GENETIC GIRLS,  
YA KNOW?

NORMALLY,  
THAT WOULDVE  
MEANT BOTH  
ME AND SLIM.

I MEAN-- SLIM WAS  
BORN FEMALE--

IT'S JUST THAT I WASN'T  
A COP ANYMORE.

HELL, I'M NOT SURE  
WHAT I WAS--

--BUT I WAS  
FUCKIN' PISSED

SO WHAT'S  
THE PLAN,  
MARIS--



OOOOOH, YOU TOO,  
QUERIDA MIA. YOU ARE  
ONE OUCH-LOOKIN'  
MAMI! EH, PAPI?

MY BRAVE  
KNIGHT IN  
SHINING  
LEATHER  
ARMOR--

THOK

--DOWN' IT UP,  
LIKE ARIOSTA'S  
BRADAMONTE.


HOW COME I  
NEVER SAW THIS SIDE  
OF YOU, LOVER?









A comic book page with a dark, rainy atmosphere. The background is a city street with rain falling heavily, indicated by numerous diagonal lines. A woman in a pink dress is seen from behind, walking away. The page is divided into several panels. The top left panel shows the woman walking. The top right panel shows her from a different angle. The middle section consists of three close-up panels of the woman's face, showing her eyes and hair. The bottom left panel shows a red car parked on the street. The bottom right panel is a close-up of the woman's face, showing her mouth and chin. The text is in white boxes with black borders.

WHY DIDST THOU PROMISE  
SUCH A BEAUTEIOUS DAY

AND MAKE ME TRAVEL  
FORTH WITHOUT MY CLOAK,

TO LET BASE  
CLOUDS  
OERTAKE ME  
IN MY WAY,

HIDING THY BRAVRY IN  
THEIR ROTTEN SMOKE?

T'IS NOT ENOUGH  
THAT THROUGH THE  
CLOUD THOU BREAK

TO DRY THE RAIN  
ON MY STORM-  
BEATEN FACE,

FOR NO MAN WELL  
OF SUCH A SALVE  
CAN SPEAK

THAT HEALS THE  
WOUND, AND CURES NOT  
THE DISGRACE.

IT'S ALL YOUR  
FAULT, HORT.





IF YOU HAD LISTENED  
TO ME WE WOULD BE  
IN PARIS RIGHT NOW.

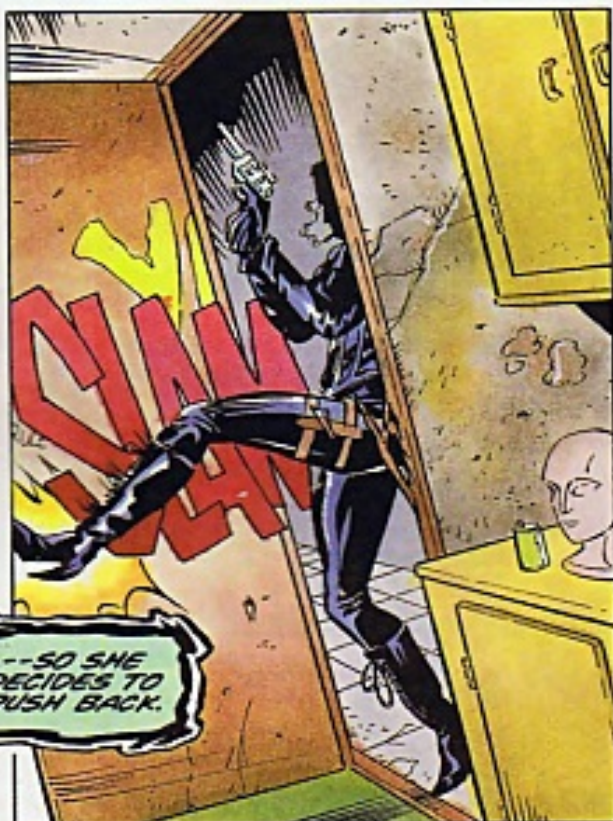


YOU STILL HAVE  
A CHANCE TO  
LISTEN, MADDIE.



THERE'S A MOVIE  
ABOUT THIS GIRL  
WHO GETS PUSHED  
TOO FAR--

--SO SHE  
DECIDES TO  
PUSH BACK.



YOU ALWAYS HAVE  
A CHANCE TO  
HEAR ME IN TIME



YOUR DECISION.



YOUR DECISION.



SEE  
YOU IN  
HELL.

FREEZE,  
TWISTO!

THAT'S  
MISS  
TWISTO.

WHAT THE  
HELL ARE YOU  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE?

AN ART  
CRITIC.

I'VE TOLD  
YOU BEFORE,  
KIDDO.

GLIBNESS  
DOESN'T  
BECOME  
YOU.

**KRASH**

ENOUGH.

DO IT.



FUNNY THING  
ABOUT DEATH--

--AS LOATHE AS THE LIVING  
ARE TO ADMIT IT, THEY  
DO KEEP ON LIVING.

THE JORNADA  
DEL MUERTO

A PULSATING RHYTHM  
OF WHITE NOISE THAT  
COVERS UP THE SOUND  
OF THE JACKAL'S CRY.

DID YOU  
HEAR A  
GUNSHOT?



367 OGDEN AVENUE,  
SACHEM CITY.

HOME.

THIS WAS  
THE NIGHT I  
LOST DINI.

LIEUTENANT KEVIN  
SCOTT THORNE.

ONE  
OF DAKOTA'S  
FINEST.

DINI WAS PRETTY  
SCRAPPY, LEFT  
NUTBOY WITH A  
PERMANENT SCAR.



MY BABY WASN'T AS LUCKY.





SWEET DREAMS, SWEETNESS.

I'LL PROTECT YOU, QUERIDA.

ALWAYS...



WILL YOU BE STAYING, THEN?

I DUNNO...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HORT!



ANYWAY... I MADE IT TO PARIS.



JUST BLOW OUT THE CANDLES AND MAKE A WISH.



OISON

TE AMO.

# LOVE 'N' DEATH

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## YVES SPEAKS...

Dini Torres isn't really dead. I am Dini. As much as Marisa's story is Addie's, Dini's is mine. Addie thought it was only fitting that since the final issue of Deathwish was narrated by the character of Dini Torres, that I be given the chance to speak. The Deathwish miniseries was more than art to me. The memories it awoke in me were so strong that at times it became quite unsettling. I wasn't even aware of my own feelings of survivor-guilt until I saw it taking shape within the themes presented in our story.

On the first page, of the first issue the reader briefly encounters Jackie, a friend of Dini's who has just been killed by the serial-killer, Boots. She too was based on a real person, my bestfriend Jackie Kaufman. Jackie had met a similar fate back in the mid-eighties. I'd like to dedicate a part of this work to her, because she's not forgotten in my mind.

*Jackie, I miss you, and I love you.*

When I first met Addie, I was still a dweller "In the life." I am very impressed that a company like Milestone was prepared to portray something that is still so extraordinary to most people. I was also impressed that we weren't made to feel that we had to present these themes in a gratuitous fashion. I would like to personally thank Dwayne McDuffie, Denys Cowan, and Derek Dingle for their courage and foresight in creating a company where everyone's voices are heard. Finally, I'd like to thank the goddess for Slimmie.

-- Yves S. Fezzani



ADAM & YVES

Dear Milestoners,

I am a post-transsexual spansexual, which means that I've gone through the whole medical process of genital realignment, and rejecting the same accept that I am simultaneously male and female (thus "spansexual," spanning the gender gap). I don't regret losing the more obvious aspects of maleness, on the contrary, that was part of the process I had to go through to reach my current state of assertively being male and female in a society that is very hostile to the idea of being more than one gender. No, I don't regret having mine removed, but I'm angry that I was lied to, and that vulnerable trans are still being lied to, to support the false idea that healthy humans are either male or female and not both.

The reason that so many people are fascinated (or repulsed, same thing, different charge) by trans is because people who transgress gender roles have something to say to everyone who feels trapped by their gender role. Judging from the astoundingly adult and open-minded way you folks at Milestone portray human nature and interaction. I'm probably preaching to the converted here.

Thank you, everybody involved, for all the trans and non-mainstream sexualities in Milestone. Thank you, in fact, for Milestone.

Outta here,  
Norrie-May Welby  
Kings Cross, Australia

Dear Adam & Yves,

DEATHWISH continues to pick up steam; the pacing has been exceptional, and nowadays in comics pace is a forgotten art. Now, I don't know if I'll win a prize for noticing this, but on page 14, panel 4, there is an interesting compositional choice. The moon behind Boots' head gives the illusion of a halo. It gives a good impression that he views himself as being holy and/or doing holy work. It fits with the religious imagery of both his artwork and his quotations. Sort of reminds me of the Gemini Killer from the movie "Exorcist III" (when he brags about being an artist and employing showmanship) although Boots' psychosis is much more deeply ingrained and serious.

One final piddling note - I'm sure you're going to get a LOT of letters from people commenting on the use of the word "f\*\*\*" in issue #3. I have always felt that in movies

and some books that the overuse of f\*\*\* sort of deflates its impact, and lessens its value. I consider this a very tasteful use of a word not often thought of as tasteful.

Sincerely,  
Jonah Falcon  
427 W26 St. #7E  
NY, NY 10001-5626

Dear Editors,

This really isn't even a story about the grim and gritty vigilante type "hero", Deathwish. This is the story of Lt. Marisa Rahm. I can't recall the last time I read a story that involved so much gender bending, and at that, I can't recall when I've read one of these stories that has been so interesting. You don't trivialize the gender bending, I appreciate that. I'll just say that this is one of the better, most interesting and intriguing stories that I've read all year. And there's also gun-blazing action to boot! I like this comic so much I think I'll check out more Milestone stuff. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Marlan Harris  
Nuevo, CA



This miniseries is over, but the nightmares truly begin in...

## THE HUNT FOR DEATHWISH

A Cyber-gothic tale of terror

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